Sibling connection a big piece of Dowagiac, Niles wrestling programs
Page B1

Stay Safe

Be mindful of your surroundings, especially in unfamiliar or dimly lit areas. Trust your instincts - if something feels off, move to a safer location if possible. Encourage neighbors to establish a neighborhood watch program to keep our communities safe.

Berrien County Sheriff's Office
Crime Prevention Unit
919 Port Street
St. Joseph, MI 49085
(269) 983-7141 Ext. 7221
www.bcsheriff.org

Sheriff, Chuck Heit

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK FOR UP-TO-DATE • CRIME PREVENTION & SAFETY TIPS

Today's
The Herald-Palladium
included inside

Niles Star

Established 1886 • Serving Niles, Buchanan and Edwardsburg **MARCH 7, 2026** leaderpub.com • A publication of The Herald-Palladium **$4**

Niles Township residents organize against proposed Meijer development

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — Community members are mobilizing to protest a rezoning proposal that would enable a Meijer store to open in Niles Charter Township.

More than two dozen community members attended a meeting Wednesday at the Niles District Library to organize and share concerns as the NCT Planning Commission considers the rezoning of a large property to allow for a Meijer supercenter and other potential development projects at the intersection of Niles-Buchanan Road and Morris Drive in Niles Township.

Maxwell Harden / Leader Publications

More than two dozen community members attended a meeting Wednesday at the Niles District Library to organize and share concerns regarding a proposed Meijer supercenter and other potential development projects in Niles Township.

Niles Township resident Steve Chiodo and other concerned residents are urging township officials to consider resident input and reject or change the proposal to protect the neighborhood.

"It's not necessarily that it's Meijer," he said. "The one lot they want to try and rezone, if you look at it and overlay it on Google Earth, you could fit University Park Mall and other parking lots in that spot. It's huge. There's another lot that goes 600 feet back the same way."

At the meeting, residents voiced concerns ranging from traffic congestion, environmental and stormwater impacts to possible safety hazards, increased crime and decline in property values. For Chiodo and many in attendance, one of the main frustrations is the lack of information on a project they believe would change the character of the neighborhood.

"They aren't telling us how they're going to effectively police the area or what's going to happen with the traffic patterns," he said. "I know a lot of this gets approved and then they work on it, but we aren't getting much information. There are a lot of wetlands back there and creeks that run down to the Saint Joe River. Morris Drive is an iconic, beautiful drive all the way to the church. Depending on what they do, there could be a parking lot right up to it with only a 10 or 11-foot buffer."

Without much available information to go on, residents are concerned that the area

See **MEIJER**, page A4

Maxwell Harden / Leader Publications

The Cass District Library's new Edwardsburg branch opened its doors to the community Friday.

New beginnings

Edwardsburg Library welcomes guests with grand opening ceremony

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

EDWARDSBURG — A journey years in the making concluded Friday afternoon in front of 26964 Main Street in Edwardsburg.

It was there, under a bright sky, that the Cass District Library hosted the grand opening ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Edwardsburg Branch in front of its state-of-the-art facade.

"Today, we open a new doorway built through community vision, collaboration and a shared commitment to creating a space where everyone can learn, grow and belong," said CDL Board President Eileen Toney. "This 5.4-acre, $7 million project represents a modern, flexible library for the community and reflects the board's decision to responsible stewardship involving Community needs and the future of Library services in Cass County."

CDL director Chris Korenowsky welcomed those in attendance before presenting speakers that included Interim State Librarian Michelle Bradley, Cass County Commissioner Sam Berrera, Edwardsburg Area Chamber of Commerce Trustee Roseanne Marchetti, Edwardsburg Village President Dennis Peak, Abonmarche Director of Architecture Arvin Delacruz, muralist Justin Johnson and CDL Board of Directors VP Rebecca Crocker.

The dream for a new Edwardsburg Branch began after the completion of a Facilities Master Plan in 2021 and was brought to fruition through a successful Headlee Override millage vote in the August 2022 election. The new location is nearly triple the size of the Church Street buildin – which dutifully

See **OPENING**, page A5

SaveurPizza to open this spring in former Captain's building

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

EDWARDSBURG — A new pizza parlor will soon be serving up authentic pies to the community in a familiar place.

SaveurPizza, 24104 US-12, Edwardsburg, is gearing up to open up shop in the former Captain's Pizzeria. Owner and Executive Chef Christopher Kohut acquired the space last month and has been hard preparing the space with hopes of opening in late April.

"We've been in here remodeling for almost a month now," Kohut said. "We took possession in February. We had slated an original opening for April 2, but that's probably not going to happen. I'm thinking more toward the end of April because once we got in there, we saw how much work was needed to bring it up to health department codes."

Kohut, who owns and operates his local catering business SaveurFresh, was looking for a kitchen to use for his business when he came across the former Captain's building. When word got out that Captain's had been purchased, Kohut decided to open a pizza parlor of his own.

He decided to name his businesses "Saveur," which means "savory" in French.

"Everything we do is very savory, organic, and tasteful," he said. "A lot of thought is put into our ingredients."

Maxwell Harden / Leader Publications

SaveurPizza is gearing up to open up shop in the former Captain's Pizzeria.

With an emphasis on authentic pizza with fresh, minimal ingredients, SaveurPizza will feature a variety of pizza styles including traditional, artisan, deep dish, gluten-free and more.

"Our pizzas are going to be pre-designated as far as the toppings," he said. "Truly authentic pizza from Italy doesn't have a ton of toppings; it is very simplistic with good, clean, organic ingredients. It brings out the best flavor with combined toppings. In other places, when you put deep toppings on, the flavor just gets lost. We've come up with pizzas that we think work really well together. It's not going to be a typical place where you call and ask for six or eight toppings like a 'Supreme.' We will have a vegetarian pizza and four different styles of crusts which are authentic to specific types of pizzas."

In addition to its slate of pizzas, SaveurPizza will also have the original Captain's Pizzeria recipe for the community to enjoy.

See **SAVEURPIZZA**, page A4

South Bend man found guilty in the 2025 murder of Courtney Hershberger

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Correspondent

NILES — Lies, lies and more lies. That's how Berrien County Chief Assistant Prosecutor Cortney O'Malley summed up the case against Rene Lopez Alvarado Monday and jurors agreed as they came back with a guilty verdict on first-degree murder and felony firearm charges.

ALVARADO

The jury of six men and six women took less than three hours to come back with their verdict. Alvarado is scheduled to be sentenced before Berrien County Trial Judge Gordon Hosbein on April 27. Judge Hosbein presided over the four day trial that concluded Monday.

O'Malley thanked the jury after the trial. "We're glad that the jury took the matter seriously and thank them for their time," she said. "I think it was a just verdict."

Alvarado, 33, of South Bend was arrested July 21, 2025 and was arraigned on the two felony charges of open murder and possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony two days later. He faces a penalty of life in prison without parole on the first-degree murder charge and a consecutive two years in prison on the felony firearm charge.

Berrien County Sheriff's Deputies were called to the Franklin Woods mobile home park, 1950 S. 13th St., on July 21 on reports of a deceased woman inside a home. The woman found dead was identified as 29 year old Courtney Hershberger. The autopsy indicated that she died of a gunshot wound to her head.

Alvarado didn't testify during the trial at the Niles courthouse but jurors did hear the interviews he gave to Berrien County Sheriff's Department officers after Hershberger's death. More than two dozen witnesses were called by the prosecution during the course of the trial, while defense attorney Carri Briseno did not call any witnesses.

According to testimony, it was Alvarado who made the initial 9-1-1 call to police. He initially claimed that he found Hershberger dead when he came to her home that day in the early afternoon. He later admitted he had been there in the overnight hours during which time he said he had accidently killed her.

O'Malley painted a much different picture during

See **GUILTY**, page A4

Today's obituaries • Pages A3, A4

Sheree Irwin, Diane Weiser, Elizabeth Clement, Walter Mooney, Lorna Sanchez, Bill Cramer, Duane Gillam, Judy Chapman, Jan Shoop, Jerry Sink

Inside today's Herald-Palladium

Automotive	C6	Focus	B1	Opinion	B6
Business	C4	Food	B7	Puzzles	B4
Comics	B5	Home & Garden	C7	Television	D3

FRANKLY

Tips and quips

What is Frankly? It is where readers sound off on issues of the day. Have a tip or a quip? Call Frankly at 269-687-7700 or email rich.cains@leaderpub.com.

■ Caruso's Candy Shop is Dowagiac history. Please continue to support them and our other small businesses that make our town great.

■ And, just like that, we are at war again. Who needs a Congress when a President can pretty much do whatever the heck he wants to do.

■ Looking forward to seeing Tropical Smoothie Cafe set up shop in Niles.

■ I doubt that little gas station in Iowa will still be charging $1.50 per gallon by the end of the week.

■ A Meijer in Niles Township would be a welcome addition to our town.

■ Support your local nurses.

■ Don't expect a tariff refund. Even though they were illegal, even though those costs were passed on to you, there is no way the consumer will get that illegal tax money back.

■ The proposed Meijer would not just impact Niles Township. Buchanan businesses and commuters would be impacted, too.

■ Dowagiac girls wrestling coach Bethany Simpson was named Region Assistant Coach of the Year. Thank you for all you do.

■ "The Chicago Bears of Hammond" just doesn't feel right.

■ I love seeing our Berrien County law enforcement officers out and about. Stay safe out there.

■ Would the economic benefits of a Niles Township Meijer outweigh the environmental consequences? I don't think so.

■ Way to go Niles and Brandywine boys basketball for winning district titles.

Niles resident celebrates 105th

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

Maxwell Harden / Leader Publications

Friends and family gathered Tuesday at Brentwood at Niles Senior Livingto celebrate Betty Zellers' 105th birthday.

Photo provided

During the Niles City Council's Feb. 23 meeting, Mayor Nick Shelton presented a proclamation to Zellers declaring March 3, 2026 "Betty Zellers Day" in Niles.

NILES — Tuesday was Betty Zellers Day in the City of Niles.

Friends and family gathered Tuesday at Brentwood at Niles Senior Living, 1147 S. 3rd St., to celebrate Zellers' 105th birthday. During the Niles City Council's Feb. 23 meeting, Mayor Nick Shelton presented a proclamation to Zellers declaring March 3, 2026 "Betty Zellers Day" in Niles and extended Happy Birthday wishes from the entire community.

"She's always been an inspiration," said Zellers' daughter, Michele Boyd said. "She's always been positive, and she helped not only me growing up, but also my dad ... I thank all of you for being her friend here and I know she enjoys being around you all, so thank you very much."

Zellers was born on March 3, 1921, in Indianapolis, Indiana and graduated from LaPorte schools. She had four brothers, three served during World War II and one in the Korean War; Betty bought and encouraged co-workers to buy bonds to support the wars; and

In 1943, Betty married Williams Zellers and they moved to Roseland, Indiana. In 1950, they moved to Niles where they founded Niles Engineering and Betty was the secretary/bookkeeper until 1988 when they sold the company and retired. Her daughter, Michele Boyd, attended Westside Elementary; Zellers became involved in the PTO, dance school activities and chaperoned events. She was an Eastern Star member while her daughter was in Rainbow Girls. Zellers served as a volunteer at the Hospital Coffee Bar and later in the surgery waiting room until she was in her late 90s, and delivered Meals on Wheels until she was 98.

In 1953, Zellers joined the First Presbyterian church and served as a bible schoolteacher, deacon and volunteered for many church activities. She was an avid bowler, being honored as the eldest Niles female bowler at one time, and golfed on leagues at Brookwood, Hampshire, and Plym Park before retiring from golf in 2013.

While she did not have a secret to her long life, Zellers said that she has always liked to exercise and that her favorite activity was dancing.

"I'm lucky to have come this far," Zellers said. "Very lucky."

WEATHER

Today: A chance of showers, with thunderstorms also possible after 1p.m.. Areas of dense fog before noon. Otherwise, cloudy, with a high near 69. South wind 5 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40 percent.

Tonight: A chance of showers and thunderstorms, then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm after 5a.m.. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 60. South wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent. New rainfall a.m.ounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher a.m.ounts possible in thunderstorms.

Saturday: Showers and possibly a thunderstorm before 1p.m., then a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms between 1p.m. and 4p.m.. Temperature rising to near 65 by 11a.m., then falling to around 55 during the remainder of the day. Southwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80 percent.

Saturday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 35. West wind 5 to 10 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 59. Southwest wind 5 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

Sunday Night: Clear, with a low around 45.

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 68.

Monday Night: A 30 percent chance of rain, mainly after 1a.m.. Mostly clear, with a low around 46.

Tuesday: Rain likely, mainly after 1p.m.. Mostly sunny, with a high near 63. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.

Tuesday Night: Rain and possibly a thunderstorm. Low around 42. Chance of precipitation is 90 percent.

Wednesday: Rain likely. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 52. Chance of precipitation is 60 percent.

Wednesday Night: A slight chance of rain and snow. Partly cloudy, with a low around 30. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 47.

Visit us at leaderpub.com

Robert Clayton
PLASTERING & DRYWALL
40 Years Experience
• Fast Dependable Service
• Clean Quality Work
• Finish and Repair
• Water Damage Specialist
269-695-7621
4060 W. Bertrand • Niles, MI

MONUMENTS By Design LLC
Cemetery Memorial Stones
21945 M60 East, Cassopolis, MI 49031
Phone: 269.445.3848 Fax: 269.445.3828
www.monumentsbydesignllc.com
monumentsbydesign@gmail.com

Ask Us About Our Pre-Need Plans
Paul E. Mayhew Funeral Home, Inc.
26863 W. Main Street, Edwardsburg, MI
269-663-5345
Paul E. Mayhew, Owner

Caring for a loved one?
You don't have to do it alone.
At Area Agency on Aging, we're your trusted source for answers and assistance. From in-home care options to respite services and critical resources, we make it easier to balance work, family, and caregiving.
Area Agency on Aging, Inc. SPECIALISTS IN AGING
Offering Choices for Independent Lives
Call 1-800-654-2810 or visit www.AreaAgencyonAging.org

PIPESTONE SMALL ENGINE
We now carry FERRIS
Mowers, Chainsaws, Power Equipment
Engines, Parts, Service, Tractors
Husqvarna
ECHO Outdoor Power Equipment
• Cylinder Boring
• Machine Shop
• Engine Rebuilding
• Crankshaft Regrinding
Kohler • Tecumseh • Briggs & Stratton
Husqvarna • Tanaka • Country Clipper
4947 Park Road, Eau Claire, MI 49111 · 269-461-6421
pipestonesmallengine.net

CASS FAMILY CLINIC
Our Family, Caring For Yours.
HEALTH CARE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD
MOBILE CLINIC
Corewell Health
PARTNERING FOR YOUR HEALTH
Accepting Walk-in's and New Patients
Monday - Thursday 8:30am to 4:00pm
(269) 445-3874
Bring your I.D, insurance, & medications
Debit or Credit Only
Scan for the clinic's locations & times
• Flu Shots
• Primary Care
• Patient education
• Blood pressure checks
• Health & wellness exams
• Sports & wellchild physicals
• Other healthcare needs

J & H OIL CO.
Choose The Leader In:
• Fuel Oil Delivery for Home
• Agriculture & Commercial Fuels
• Service Station & Convenience Store Resalers
• Pacific Pride 24 Hour Commercial
• Fuel Locations in Cassopolis, Byron Center & Owosso
Contract/Fixed Price Options
• Volume Discounts
• Motor oils & hydraulics in bulk & packaged quantities
• Premium Diesel Fuel
• Hoses & Filters in stock
QUALITY PETROLEUM DISTRIBUTORS
J&H Oil is your DEF Solution for Diesel Engines as Required on 2010 or Newer Vehicles. Available in 2.5 gallon, 55 gallon and Totes
PACIFIC PRIDE · air1 · Phillips 66 Lubricants · Mobil · Marathon · Citgo
J & H OIL CO.
Quality Petroleum Distributors
604 Water Street, Cassopolis, MI 49031
(269) 445-2441 • (800) 424-3885 | WWW.JHOIL.COM

Get Fit, Stay Fit
The Cass County COA has outstanding fitness centers at both locations. Each center offers a variety of cardiovascular fitness machines and weight training equipment as well as In-Person and Zoom Fitness Classes. Trained instructors provide assistance, advice and class instruction to help you meet your fitness goals.
• Balance, Stretch & Stability • Cardio Challenge
• H.I.L.I.T. • S.E.A.T. • Tai Chi • Yoga
Cass County COA Enhancing Life
(800) 323-0390 | (269) 445-8110
www.CassCOA.org
facebook.com/CassCOA
Lowe Center
60525 Decatur Rd.
Cassopolis, MI 49031
Front Street Crossing
227 S. Front Street
Dowagiac, MI 49047

LEADER PUBLICATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE
Publisher
Rich Cains
219-455-2349
rich.cains@leaderpub.com

CUSTOMER SERVICE & DISTRIBUTION
Amy Glover
(269-687-7717
amy.glover@leaderpub.com

EDITORIAL
MANAGING EDITOR
Maxwell Harden
231-750-5776
max.harden@leaderpub.com

ADVERTISING
Dennis Hinsey
269-362-1525
dennis.hinsey@leaderpub.com

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING
269-429-1396

Established in 1886
www.leaderpub.com

Published Saturday except holidays when the postal service does not deliver mail: New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day at 25 N. Second St., Niles, Michigan, by Leader Publications LLC. Periodicals paid at the Niles Post Office, 741 Broadway St. Postmaster: Send change of address to Circulation Manager, The Daily Star, 25 N. Second St., Niles, MI 49120.
Home Delivery by mail is local: $7.50/month, out of town: $10.50/month.
USPS 390-620

OBITUARIES

Elizabeth Ann Clement

November 15, 1923 – February 28, 2026

Elizabeth Ann Clement, 102, of Cassopolis, died peacefully on February 28, 2026 in the presence of her family, listening to the soft waves of Lake Michigan at Brentwood at Niles, Michigan. She was born Elizabeth Ann Hills on November 15, 1923 in Grand Rapids, Michigan to Isaac Arthur and Mary Josephine (Applegate) Hills. Elizabeth enjoyed a wonderful childhood among close family in Grand Rapids and at her family's summer getaway, "The Wilderness," on Lake Michigan in Grand Haven. She was a member of Campfire Girls and Job's Daughters as a young girl, and enjoyed several years as a summer camp counselor in Ohio in her college years.

She graduated from Central High School in Grand Rapids in 1941, just before her family moved to Mishawaka, Indiana. She attended Indiana University in Bloomington, graduating with a degree in English Literature in 1946. Returning to Mishawaka, she met and married a handsome young Navy man whose family attended the same church as hers, and who lived just one block away on Lincolnway. She and John M. "Jack" Clement were married on February 19, 1949, and moved to the family farm outside of Cassopolis at that time, where they raised their four children. The family lived on the farm until 1961, when Jack and a handful of his friends from Tyler Refrigeration built the new family home on the old apple orchard of the farm property, where she lived independently until May, 2025.

Elizabeth obtained her Masters degree in Elementary Education in 1964 from Michigan State University. She spent 27 years teaching in Cassopolis at Brookside, Red Brick, Vandalia, Geneva, and Squires Elementary schools. Before joining the Cassopolis school system, she taught as a substitute at several one-room schoolhouses in the area.

Throughout her teaching and then in her retirement years, she made it a mission to make sure her students had warm mittens for winter, and hand knit hundreds of pairs to give to all the kids needing them and to stock the annual mitten tree. She delighted in chance encounters with former students, and almost always was able to recognize adults whom she had not seen since they were children.

Elizabeth was involved in many activities as her family grew up, including Girl Scouts, 4H, and, perhaps most notably, the Cassopolis High School Band Parents organization, in which she and Jack were active through all four of the kids' high school careers. Through this organization, they became "bonus" parents for many of the other band kids, who were always welcome to join the Clement crew for meals, adventures, and just hanging out.

Elizabeth loved visits to Lake Michigan throughout her lifetime, and to the family cabin in Baldwin, Michigan. She enjoyed birds, nature, and all manner of fiber crafts, her favorite being weaving once she learned that skill. During WWII, she served as a nurses' aide and a hostess at the service center in South Bend.

Organizations to which Elizabeth belonged include the Samuel Felt Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, The American Association of University Women, Tri Kappa, The Weavers Guild, the Dowagiac Garden Club, and the Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel.

Elizabeth was preceded in death by her parents, Isaac Arthur and Mary Jo Hills, husband John M. Clement, and siblings Mary Josephine (Bobbie) Hills Derda, Edward Applegate Hills, and Arthur Hunter Hills, son-in-law Donald P. Moroz, and daughter-in-law Michele Pointer Clement. Surviving Elizabeth are her children, Howard (Terri Stanton) Clement of Florida, Ken of Three Rivers, MI, Maggie (Terry) Clement-Jacobsen of Niles, and Nora Moroz of Cassopolis, grandchildren Todd (Carmen) Clement, Adam (Debbie) Clement, Brooke Clement, Jennifer (Chris) Kurus, Abby (Chris) Glassman, Sara (Andrew) Murphy, Molly (Brook) Moroz-Beasley, Tracy Stanton, Kristie (Ian Hurst) Jacobsen, Adam (Melissa) Jacobsen, great-grandchildren Morgan Clement, Dane Clement, Cade Clement, Grace Kurus, Gavin Kurus, Brady Glassman, Reed Glassman, Piper Glassman, Barrett Murphy, Raul Rodriguez, Ulises (Yesenia) Rodriguez, Gabe Stanton-Catallon, Ava Hurst, and Bennett Hurst, great-great-grandchildren Iker, Yaranelii, and Alan Rodriguez, and many beloved nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Family and friends will gather Saturday, March 7, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. until time of service at 12:00 Noon in United Presbyterian Church of Cassopolis, 209 East State Street, Cassopolis. The family prefers memorials in Elizabeth's name be made either to, United Presbyterian Church of Cassopolis, 209 East State Street, Cassopolis, Michigan 49031, or Heartland Hospice, 8075 Creekside Drive #120, Portage, Michigan 49024.

Elizabeth's family would like to thank the staff of the Cass County Medical Care Facility, Brentwood at Niles, and Heartland Hospice for the loving care provided to her in the last seven months of her 102 years of life. Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.

Sheree Irwin

March 2, 1971 – February 20, 2026

It is with heavy hearts and great sadness that we share the passing of Sheree Irwin, 54, of Foley Alabama, formerly of Dowagiac. She brought joy, laughter, and love to everyone who knew her.

She was involved and participated in many activities. Some of the organizations helping Sheree to find a great life include: The Shriners, Brookside Learning Center, Special Olympics, Woodlands Behavioral Center, Civitan Club, Foley Public Library, Dance Without Limits and the Exceptional Foundation Gulf Coast where Sheree attended until her passing. The number of people that were in her inner circle are too many to mention. Friends became family to Sheree, everywhere she went.

Sheree loved music, dancing and her movies. She spent hours writing and coloring pages for every occasion for those she loved. Sheree would be remembered for her bigger than life smile and her love for her family. Her laughter and genuine personality were gifts to everyone who knew her and she never met an Uno card she didn't like.

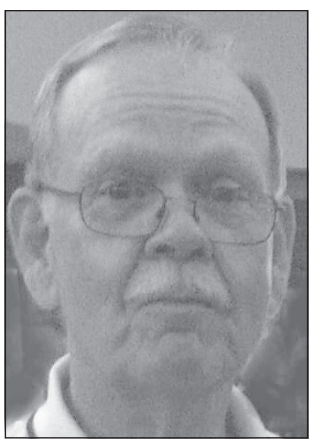
Sheree will be greatly missed by family and friends. She is survived by her loving father and step-mother, Jerry G. and Jo-Ann Irwin; three sisters, Jennifer (Dan) Cook, Pamela (Jason) Olivarez, Jacklyn (Steven) Cross; one brother, Jacob (Heather) Kammers; nephews, Johnathan (Maddie) Cook, Andrew Cook, Jackson Olivarez, Apollo Cross, Ethan (Brooke) Kammers, Jude Kammers, Jonah Kammers; nieces, Katie Cook, Mckenna Olivarez, Penelope Cross; great nephew, Carter Cook; and several Aunts, Uncles, cousins and treasured friends.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Linda Pruett; grand-parents, Marcia and Curtis Pruett and Ruth and George Irwin. Family and friends will gather Monday, March 2, 2026 from 11:00 A.M. until the time of her service at 1:00 P.M. in Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, 202 North Broadway Street, Cassopolis. Interment will be private. The family prefers contributions in memory of Sheree be made to Exceptional Foundation Gulf Coast P.O. Box 1267 Fairhope, Alabama 36533 or efgcfunds.swell.gives.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.

William 'Bill' Cramer

July 5, 1940 – March 3, 2026



William Lloyd "Bill" Cramer, age 85 years of Niles, Michigan; husband, father, grandfather, accountant, fisherman, and devoted follower of Jesus Christ died at 6:18 a.m. on Tuesday, March 3, 2026 with his family gathered around at his home, following a long fight against Parkinson's Disease. He was born on July 5, 1940 in Niles to Edwin W. and Wilma L. (Myers) Cramer, was raised in the family's grocery store on Michigan Street, and graduated from Niles High School.

He continued his education at Albion (Michigan) College, graduating in 1962 with a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting. He enlisted in the United States Army National Guard, and completed Basic Training at Fort Gordon, Georgia. He was deployed in 1967 to the Detroit Riots, and completed his Army National Guard of Michigan obligation in 1970.

He was first employed at the First Bank and Trust Company of South Bend (now 1st Source), and was later employed as the Patient Account Manager at the former Pawating Hospital in Niles. He was then employed for several years at the former Watervliet Community Hospital from which he retired in 2005. Bill was a member of the First Baptist Church of Niles where he sang in the choir, and served as treasurer.

In the 1990s he joined the Community Evangelical Free Church in Niles where he served several terms as a Deacon. He was a member of the DeColores Ministries of Southwest Michigan, serving many weekend-long events, quietly making sure that everything ran smoothly. He also enjoyed singing with a local barbershop quartet.

Bill took many missionary trips to Haiti, supporting the Tabernacle of Praise Church in Cap-Haitien, and its founder, the late Pastor Ecclesias Donatien, and later traveled to Haiti with the Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity (VOSH), along with some Niles area Optometrists. At home, Bill enjoyed yardwork, especially mowing the lawn, and always looked forward to fishing at the family retreat on Indian Lake. He helped his wife and daughters with their tag-sales through C&B Sales and Service, and for many years has been active in the Rock Steady Boxing Parkinson's Therapy program.

He was first married to the former Marcia Riedel, and they were sadly preceded in death by an infant son, Charles B. Cramer in 1972. On November 25, 1978 at the First Baptist Church of Niles, he married the former Karla Rae (Gill) Elms with whom he celebrated last year the remarkable Forty-seventh anniversary of their wedding.

Surviving family includes his wife, Karla Cramer, and children Shannon Elms, Brett (& Janet) Elms, Kim (& Rick) Blake, and LeAnne Cramer-Scott, all of Niles; grandchildren Joe Kelley, Ashley Henrichsen, Andrew Henrichsen, Trey Scott, Brianna Elms, Izzy Scott, Ty Elms, Gabby Blake, Kayden Scott, Travis Blake, and Tyler Blake; great-grandchildren Mason, Ellie, and Milah; and Bill's brother, Richard (& Karen) Cramer of Grand Haven, Michigan; and several nieces and nephews.

Services for Bill Cramer will be at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 8, 2026 at the Community Evangelical Free Church, 120 East Bertrand Road in Niles, with Pastor B.J. Clear of the church officiating, with memories by Pastor Matt Hickok. The service will include the Veteran's Flag Presentation and "Taps" by the United States Army Honor Guard. Contributions in memory of Bill may be made to the church, or to the Michigan Parkinson Foundation, 30400 Telegraph Road, Suite 150, Bingham Farms, Michigan, 48025, https://parkinsonsmi.org/; or to Rock Steady Boxing, 6847 Hillsdale Court, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46250, https://rocksteadyboxing.org/.

Arrangements were completed at the Halbritter-Wickens Funeral Home, 615 East Main Street in Niles. Memories and condolences may be left online at: www.halbritterwickens.com Psalms 90:10 suggests that we might live to be 70, or by strength 80, and Bill exceeded that, using the years of his life to love God by serving others. He served in the military, and then a career of quietly collecting patient accounts, and in the background at church, humbly keeping the books.

He enjoyed the solitude of fishing and yardwork, but – quite opposite – he enjoyed singing – even barbershop style, and boxing! Most importantly, he raised a houseful of children, and their children; and he loved Karla; all evidence of fulfilling the command to love God and love people.

M. Diane Weiser

January 24, 1959 – February 11, 2026

M. Diane Weiser, 67, of Edwardsburg, died Wednesday, February 11, 2026. Her life began January 24, 1959 in Niles, Michigan, one of six children born to Otis Lintz and Delores Frantz. She married George Elmer Weiser, Jr. July 2, 1983 in Niles, Michigan. He preceded her in death.

Diane loved playing games on her phone, shopping, animals, and taking walks with her niece, Kerri. She and Kerri would sit outside, weather permitting, talking and drinking her favorite soda Zero Sugar Diet Dr. Pepper. She enjoyed watching television and listening to country music. She had a big heart and was a caretaker by nature. She went out of her way to help anyone. Diane made a big impact on people's lives.

Diane will be greatly missed by family and friends. She is survived by her sons, Alan Weiser of South Bend, Indiana, James Weiser of Warsaw, Indiana; one granddaughter; brothers, Terry Lintz of Niles, Ted Lintz of Edwardsburg; and nieces, Jennifer Webb of Edwardsburg, Shawnette Baker of Dowagiac, Theresea Baker of Niles, Terri (Nathan) Smith of Berrien Springs, Kerri (Jimmy Owen) Lintz of Edwardsburg, Madisen Ernsperger of Niles. She was preceded in death by her parents; beloved husband; sisters, D. Sue Bowman, Patty Lintz; brother, Otis Lintz, Jr.; sister-in-law, Stacey Lintz; brother-in-law, John Bowman; and niece, Lisa Webb.

The family will observe a private remembrance. Arrangements have been entrusted to Halbritter Wickens Funeral Services, Niles. Please share a memory or a message online: halbritterwickens.com.

Lorna Sanchez

November 17, 1935 – March 2, 2026

Lorna Ann Sanchez, a beacon of love and kindness, passed away peacefully of natural causes on March 2, 2026, in Niles, Michigan, at the age of 90. Born on November 17, 1935, in Chicago, Illinois, Lorna was the cherished daughter of the late Otto and Anna (Moshna) Brishke. Her life was a testament to the power of selfless love and the joy of family.

Lorna's heart found its match in Arcadio Sanchez, whom she married and built a life with, full of laughter and shared dreams. Though Arcadio preceded her in death on September 26, 2022, their love story remains a guiding light for their family. Lorna also bore the loss of her son Wayne Sanchez; a grandson, Wayne and her siblings, Paul and Milton Brishke, Alice Davenport, Sandra Tarlton, Carol Rodriguez, and Arlene Reynolds, and son-in-law, Delbert Green, with grace and resilience.

Lorna's legacy lives on through her loving daughter, Lucy Sanchez-Green; her devoted sons, Ruben and Leon Sanchez; her daughter-in-law, Shirley Sanchez; her adored grandchildren; Christina, Melissa, Shelby, Wendy, Wayne and Arcadio; great-grandchildren, Dakota, Ciara, Elysia, Dannilynn, Dohmanic, Serenity, and Estrella; her treasured great-great-granddaughter, Emlynn and soon to be great-great grandson, Arcadio De'Leon; She also leaves behind a host of cherished nieces and nephews, each of whom held a special place in her heart.

A proud retiree from Industrial Coils in Niles, Lorna dedicated many years of service to the company, earning the respect and friendship of her colleagues. Her commitment to her community was further reflected in her past membership at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Lorna's interests painted the picture of a woman who cherished the simple pleasures in life. She was an avid cook, often found canning the fruits of her labor for friends and family to enjoy. Her front porch was a haven where she welcomed neighbors and loved ones for heartfelt conversations and shared moments. Fishing trips with her beloved Arcadio were among her most treasured memories, where they would sit side by side in tranquil companionship.

Memorial contributions may be made in Lorna's memory to Caring Circle Hospice at 4025 Health Park Lane, St. Joseph, Michigan 49085. Funeral services will be held Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. at Brown Funeral Home with a time of visitation beginning at Noon. An interment will follow at Silverbrook Cemetery.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Niles. www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com. Lorna Ann Sanchez's journey through life was marked by the love she gave and the love she received in return. As we say goodbye to this extraordinary woman, we celebrate a life well-lived and the countless ways she enriched our world.

Her spirit will continue to inspire and guide us, and her memory will forever be etched in the hearts of those who were privileged to know her.

Walter Mooney

June 25, 1934 – February 22, 2026

Walter Jerome Mooney, 91, passed away on February 22, 2026 in St. Petersburg, Florida. He was born in the Bronx, New York City, New York on June 25, 1934, the first son of Lydia Cora (nee Otto) and Walter Jerome Mooney Sr. Walter moved with his parents to Berrien Co, Michigan when he was 15 years old. He graduated from New Troy High School in 1952. Walter married Geraldine Anderson in Buchanan, Michigan on March 12, 1955. In 2025 they celebrated their seventieth wedding anniversary. He lived for over 60 years with his wife in Niles, Michigan. Walter was living in St. Petersburg, Florida at the time of his death.

After working at Studebaker and Clark Equipment, Walter became a tool and die maker and shop manager. He worked for Advance Engineering, Capital Technologies, United Tool and Engineering, and X-Cell Steel Fabricating. He enjoyed his pet dogs, bow hunting, trap shooting, bowling, golfing, and playing Tri-Ominos with his family.

Walter is survived by four children Michael (Sandra) Mooney of Holland, Michigan, Paul (Desiree) of Bridgman, Michigan, Katherine (Erick) Grana of Odessa, Florida and Susan (Philip) Eaton of St. Petersburg, Florida; eight grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. He is also survived by two sisters, Barbara Lausch and Patricia Whitt.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Geraldine, parents, and siblings, Evelyn Mooney and Thomas Mooney.

A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Interment will be at Mission Hills Memorial Gardens, Niles, Michigan.

Jerry Sink

Jerry Lee Sink, 76, passed away on Sunday, March 1, 2026, in Niles, Michigan. Arrangements have been entrusted to and are pending with Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

See more obituaries on page A4

MEIJER

From page A1

may not have the infrastructure in place to accommodate a development of this scale.

"People traveling from Buchanan to Niles or vice versa are going to be heavily impacted," Chiodo said. "There's already a lot of traffic on that two-lane road. They would probably have to expand to turn lanes and lights, or maybe even five lanes, depending on the volume. Meijer is a privately held company, so it's hard to get information on their customer or car counts. If Meijer uses about half that space and then other businesses go in there, it's hard to determine exactly how much traffic there would be, but it would be a lot."

The Planning Commission is scheduled to meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 14 discuss the project. Organizers urged those in attendance to attend meetings and write letters to township officials.

"We are trying to work with the township and whoever we can to either stop such a big development going on or at least have an impact on some for zones and make it a little more sustainable for everybody that's involved," Chiodo said.

Maxwell Harden / Leader Publications

More than two dozen community members attended a meeting Wednesday at the Niles District Library to organize and share concerns regarding a proposed Meijer supercenter and other potential development projects in Niles Township.

GUILTY

From page A1

closing arguments Monday morning. She led jurors through the charges and through what the evidence showed. "The defendant wanted the police to believe one set of facts but his lies led them to the truth," she said.

O'Malley made the case for first-degree murder. She called it "super clear" that it was first-degree murder, noting that Alvarado brought the loaded gun without the safety on to Hershberger's house, took it into her bedroom where they talked and she was shot and gathered up evidence from her home which he later disposed of at his home.

"The defense will try to convince you that it was an accident," she said. "How unlucky for him that he brought a gun he had never taken to her house before, that he had been drinking, that he didn't realize the gun was loaded with the safety on and that he set it on bed where he had to put eight pounds of pressure on trigger for it to go off. If he did all that accidentally, he's the unluckiest person in the world. This was not an accident."

She said the evidence showed that Hershberger's murder was premeditated, deliberate and planned. "He lies, he lies and he lies and he thinks the police will believe him," she said. "… There was planning and preparation, he took a gun to her house in the middle of the night, he shot her in the head, gathered all the evidence and left. He was able to execute everything because there was planning and preparation which overrode his stress and adrenalin. He couldn't have done what he did without planning."

Briseno argued that Hershberger's death was a tragic accident that Alvarado didn't intend. "I'm not going to tell you that he didn't tell a whole lot of lies, but he's an incredibly bad liar," she said. "His lies didn't help him, but his lies after the fact don't equate to premeditation and deliberation. His lies were not very well thought out and they didn't help him."

She said Alvarado had a lot of reasons not to kill Hershberger. She was his friend and not just a friend with benefits, they got together every couple of days and they texted each other multiple times every day. "This was an accident, a very tragic accident," she said. "He didn't plan it. If he had, he could have planned it a whole lot better."

"He thought he could outmaneuver the police," O'Malley said in her last statements to the jury. "Maybe he's not a good liar, but he thought he was."

SAVEURPIZZA

From page A1

"When we took possession of the building, we were told there was an original Captain's recipe here for their pizzas. We will have that as one option."

SaveurPizza will offer discounts to first responders, including additional discounts to local first responders. While opening a pizza parlor was not on his bingo card, Kohut has enjoyed the journey.

"I've done pizza parties at weddings and catering events, so the transition is not too difficult," he said. "I love pizza; it's one of the things I truly love. We also take a lot of scientific aspects into account when putting ingredients into the crust. It's not just throwing dough together; there is scientific knowledge behind it. I actually have a sous chef on staff who is a chemist. He is very scientific when it comes to the food. Think of someone like Alton Brown from the Food Network; he is a very scientific-forward chef."

While the business will be takeout and delivery only, Kohut plans to have picnic tables available for use outside of the building. SaveurPizza will have its own delivery service as well as delivery app options.

"We will utilize services like Grubhub and DoorDash, but we recommend using our own service because we have much more quality control over the delivery," he said.

Kohut expects hours of operation to be from 4 to 10 p.m. five to six days a week.

"We'll have to experiment to see what is best for the area," he said. "I've been in the hospitality industry for 40 years, and I really stick to my hours of operation. If I say I'm open until 10, we will take that last order at 9:59. Closing early because it isn't busy is the death of a restaurant. We will be closed on certain days, either Sunday or Monday, and on major holidays because I am family-oriented."

He added that he expects to employ 10 to 15 staff workers part-time, most being high school students.

"We're getting a lot of buzz from the school for part-time positions," he said. "We won't be open for lunch at first, just dinner, so part-time works great for high schoolers."

Kohut is no stranger to the Edwardsburg community. He has lived in the area for more than 20 years and his daughter attends Edwardsburg High School, where he is known affectionately as the "snack dad."

"My daughter is a cheerleader and I always take care of the cheerleading girls; I make lunches for them when they go to events and take food to all of their home meets," he said.

According to Kohut, the response to SaveurPizza has been overwhelmingly positive. He said his SaveurPizza website has received more than 4,000 hits since its launch. More information can be found online at saveurpizza.com.

"It's been amazing," he said. "I'm looking forward to serving the public and becoming part of the community."

OBITUARIES

Duane Gillam

January 13, 1953 – February 28, 2026

Duane Jerome Gillam, 73, of Cassopolis, died peacefully Saturday, February 28, 2026 in the comfort of his family's presence. His life began January 13, 1953 in Dowagiac, Michigan the second born of ten children born to Duane and Dorothy Gillam. He married Donna Lee Jordan March 14, 1979 in the Church of Cassopolis.

Duane proudly served in the United States Army from 1970 through 1976. He enjoyed wearing flashy colorful suits, hats, and shoes. He was the life of the party. He had a love of music, mostly R&B, funk, and Blues. He enjoyed fishing, cars, and sweets. Duane cherished his family and was very protective of his wife and kids. He was ready and willing to help anyone; in any way he could.

Duane will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by his wife of forty-seven years, Donna Gillam; two daughters, Jalana Gillam, Shawn Jordan; two sons, Jerome (Stephanie Harrison) Gillam, Tyrone (Katy) Enboden; five grandchildren, Jerome Enboden, Russell Hawthorne, Janay Hawthorne, Jemme Enboden, Jaliyah Gray; five sisters, Elaine (Gary), Melanie, Joy (Joe), Jean (Steve), Joan; five brothers, Jeffrey (Elizabeth), Kelly (Annette), Damon, Trevor (Sharon), Joey; honorary brothers, Herman Moore, Tim Bloss, Jeff Eaton; sisters-in-law, Patricia, Adrienne (Leonard), Nanette (Nathan), Clarise, Eloise (Tony); brother-in-law, Bretho Jr. (Linda); and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Joe and Dorothy Wallace, Duane and Joyce Gillam; parents-in-law, Bretho Sr. and Vera Danzy; two sisters, Diane Berry, Teal Jones; one brother, Darnell Gillam; sister-in-law, Kluadell Scisco; and brother-in-law, Stephen Danzy.

Family and friends will gather Saturday, March 14, 2026 from 1:00 p.m. until time of service at 2:00 p.m. in Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, 202 North Broadway Street, Cassopolis. Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.

Judith 'Judy' Chapman

January 24, 1946 – March 3, 2026

Judith "Judy" Ann Chapman, age 80, of Grand Blanc, Michigan, passed away on March 3, 2026, surrounded by her children. Born on January 24, 1946, in Waukegan, Illinois, to Cecil and Virginia (Reece) Chapman. Judy spent much of her life in Niles, Michigan, and in Michigan's Copper Country – Houghton and Hancock. She graduated from Michigan Technological University in 1990 with a Bachelor of Arts in Accounting.

Judy spent many years working in the banking industry before transitioning to roles in the education departments at Michigan Technological University and later at the University of Notre Dame. Judy found great joy in helping others and was a devoted mother and friend. She was known for her warm spirit, her love of line dancing, and her active involvement at Faith Lutheran Church, where she played handbells and sang in the choir.

Judy is survived by her sons, Scott A. Graham (Denise) and Stephen D. Graham (Laura); her grandchildren, Corey Graham (Elizabeth), Victoria Graham, Parker Graham, MacKenzie Graham, Jeffery Olson (Taylor), Matthew Olson, and Emily Olson; her great-grandchildren, Noah Graham, Castiel Graham, Elijah Graham, and Brooks Olson; her brother, Charles Chapman; her sister, Christy Chapman Sabade (Daniel); and her loving companion, Lola. She was preceded in death by her parents. Through her selfless decision to be an organ donor, Judy leaves behind a powerful legacy of kindness, generosity, and love for others.

A memorial service will be held in the spring, with details to be announced. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Gift of Life Michigan or Faith Lutheran Church in Grand Blanc, Michigan. Judy will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who knew her. Your condolences may be shared with the family at swartzfuneralhomeinc.com.

Edythe Janet 'Jan' Shoop

Edythe Janet "Jan" Shoop of Eau Claire 83, passed away March 3, 2026. Arrangements have been entrusted to Allred Funeral Home in Berrien Springs, Michigan. Services on March 14, 11:00am at Trinity Lutheran Church Berrien Springs. www.AllredFuneralHome.com.

Visit us at leaderpub.com

Lunch & A Show
April 1 – Pretty Woman the Musical
April 8 – Father of the Bride
May 21 – Singin' in the Rain
June 17 – Run For Your Wife
July 22 – Escape to Margaritaville
Call today for more information.
SIGNAL TRAVEL & TOURS, INC.
Give us a call or see our website for more information.
269-684-2880 ♦ 1-800-811-1528 ♦ www.signaltravel.com

Stone Lake Manor Apartments is now accepting applicatons for 1 & 2 bedroom apartment homes. We are located at 145 Stone Lake St, just off W State St or Pokagon Hwy in Cassopolis. Please call 269-445-3333. For hearing impaired, please call TTY 7-1-1. Applicants must be 62 or older and/or physically disabled. Rent based on income for those who qualify. Professionally managed by Medallion Management, Inc. www.medallionmgmt.com This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

8x8 UP TO 14x36
Slabaugh's STORAGE BARNS
260-768-7989
Compare Our Quality & Price!
ASSEMBLED & PAINTED!
8x8 $1695
8x12 $2035
10x12 $2560
10x16 $2905
12x16 $3550
12x20 $4095

Did You Know...
Using protective devices like alarm systems, smoke detectors, fire extinguishers and dead bolt locks could get you a discount on homeowner's insurance?
Call today to find out more!
(269) 683-4900
Business • Home
Auto • Life • Farm
IMS Insurance Management Service
Auto-Owners Insurance LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS
214 N. 4th St., Niles
www.imsinsuranceagency.com
(269) 683-4900

SEMCO ENERGY ASKS CUSTOMERS TO KEEP METERS CLEAR OF SNOW AND ICE
During the winter, here are a few ways to help protect gas meter equipment and gas appliances to avoid a potentially hazardous situation or service disruption:
- Clean and repair leaky seams in your gutters and down spouts to prevent melting snow and ice from building up on the gas meter or pressure regulator.
- Never allow snow to cover your natural gas meter or its pressure regulator or block your appliance exhaust vents.
- Please use caution when shoveling snow, plowing or snow blowing to avoid piling snow against the natural gas meter, regulator or appliance vents.
- Clear a path to the meter free from snow and ice for easy access.
- Remove soft snow build-up gently, using only a broom or your hand rather than a shovel that could damage the meter.
- Do not try to remove ice or frozen snow from the natural gas meter pressure regulator or piping. If you find your meter or pressure regulator covered in ice or frozen snow, do not attempt to remove the ice or use de-icer.
Contact SEMCO ENERGY Gas Company, toll free, at 1 800 624 2019.
SEMCOENERGY GAS COMPANY

OPENING

From page A1

served the Edwardsburg community for 80 years – and allows the Edwardsburg Branch to accommodate a growing patron base.

Those in attendance were able to see the new space for themselves, which features a café space honoring a longtime library supporter, a large multipurpose room, multiple department spaces, a quarterly art exhibit, a mural created by Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians citizen and visual artist Justin Johnson, a makerspace and a rentable community room and dedicated children and teen spaces. Outside, the library will also include a back patio, a paved walking path and a shaded pergola.

"When people hear the word library, they often picture shelves of books in a quiet place to read.

But this is more than a library," Berrera said. "This building represents vision, it represents courage and it represents a whole lot of hard work that most people will never see. As [Korenowsky] mentioned, this building didn't appear overnight. It took vision, tough conversations and steady leadership. It took community voices, skilled hands, generous support and a team that refused to quit when challenges surfaced. That kind of persistence, that's what turns ideas into reality.

"The old building had served its purpose. It had foundation issues and it had age, but instead of settling for good enough, this community chose to build something extraordinary and that decision says something about who we are."

The Cass District Library is actively embracing the changing role of public libraries in creating safe and welcoming spaces for communities to find inspiration through learning and connecting.

"Public libraries are spaces where opportunity lives," Korenowsky said. "They are built on the simple but powerful belief that everybody deserves access to information, education and connection. This building is where children will discover new worlds. This is where lifelong learning will grow. It's where our neighbors will meet each other, and it's where our community will take stronger shape. It is because the generations that stood before us recognized that public libraries build strong neighborhoods. We bring together people of different ages, cultures and income levels. We provide free access for learning growth and connection.

"In a world today that can oftentimes feel divided, public libraries were made one of the few places where everyone is welcome, and everybody belongs."

Abonmarche led community engagement efforts and executed the programming and schematic design of the new facility.

"Congratulations to the board, to the staff, to the people of Edwardsburg, the community," Delacruz said. "This building will not just draw people from this immediate Community, but Regional and dare we say, it's really a case study of what can happen when people put their minds and hearts and souls and investment together? This is really for the future."

Library leaders expressed their thanks to the Village of Edwardsburg and the Cass County Board of Commissioners for their continued support of the project. Peak shared that he still remembers the first book he checked out from the Edwardsburg Library, "Little Lefty" by Matt Christopher.

"It is a joy to see the expansion of the library taking place down here," Peak said. "Many people have already talked about the community – about what a great environment and what a great campus and a beautiful scene it is – and I couldn't agree more. Many folks also talked about all the benefits the library does for community – increased learning, better comprehension, better critical thinking skills – this really is a great occasion. I have to say that the investment in our children and our community and our schools and all of Cass County is very impressive."

Marchetti, who has fond memories of visiting the Church Street branch with her children and grandchildren, looks forward to community members creating new memories at the new branch.

"I know so many of you, like me, have wonderful memories of the library. Now we have the opportunity to make new memories," she said. "Imagine walking over to the library on a lovely spring day or reading by the fireplace on a brisk fall afternoon. Making a delightful Christmas craft or strolling the grounds on a pleasant summer day. No matter what season you choose, there is our library – ready and filled with wonderful books, magazines, computers and activities of all kinds. To all present today, please take advantage of what the library has to offer, both inside and out."

Maxwell Harden / Leader Publications

The Library appreciates the strong community support and is looking forward to engaging with patrons and community members in the design of the new branch.

"The Cass District Library aspires to serve the public in new and inventive ways, reaching further and responding more thoughtfully and strategically than ever before," Korenowsky said. "The library space behind me was thoughtfully designed to not just serve today's needs. But to grow and evolve with our community for generations to come. We recognize that space is power. A cornerstone of public library service is the principle that the community should have a voice in shaping their library experience. As this new branch opens, we welcome everybody's input on our future public programming ideas and future ideas about the space you're going to see."

Strong Partnerships. Precise Architecture. Signature Designs.

CARMI design group inc
www.CARMI.biz

HEY FRIENDS!
Do you need help with your hearing health care?
WE'RE HERE FOR YOU
Special Savings
FREE hearing screening and FREE clean & check of your current hearing devices
Professional Hearing Services
511 Renaissance Drive, St. Joseph, MI 49085
www.prohear.net (269) 982-3444

Support Local

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT

Nominate your FAVORITE local businesses for Michiana's BEST of the BEST!

Nomination Voting begins March 30

Scan here!

Nominate FOR A CHANCE TO WIN $100!

Nomination Voting Ends May 4
www.leaderpub.com/contests

Eastside students host healthcare drive

SUBMITTED

Photo provided

Eastside's Student Council collected nearly 1,000 healthcare and hygiene items for local nonprofit Niles Neighbors.

NILES — Students at Eastside Connections School are proving that small acts of kindness can add up to a big impact.

Through a student-led campaign, Eastside's Student Council collected nearly 1,000 healthcare and hygiene items for Niles Neighbors, a local group that sets up free supply stands throughout the city for residents in need.

The project was the idea of eighth grader and Student Council member Thomas Gargis, who said he wanted to find a meaningful way for the school to give back.

"I chose Niles Neighbors because I know they help our community a lot in great ways," Thomas said. "And I personally wanted our school to help contribute to our city."

Collection boxes were placed in classrooms across the school. Students were encouraged to donate essential items such as soap, toothpaste, shampoo and other hygiene products. The class that collected the most items earned a pizza party, adding a fun incentive to the effort.

"It started off small." Says Student Council Advisor and Eastside Teacher, Amber Wallace. "But then things started to slowly trickle in, and even items were being delivered to the school through Amazon. They had fun collecting and promoting it."

By the end of the drive, the school had gathered almost 1,000 items.

"In the end it was really just to help people in need and give an extra boost to people," Thomas said.

Wallace says that service projects help students build a stronger sense of community.

"It's good because it teaches the students a sense of community and these goods are staying within our community," she said. "So it helps them feel like they're doing something good, something bigger."

Niles Neighbors distributes donated supplies through stands placed around the city, where anyone can take what they need free of charge. The organization currently has supply stands at On Base Productions, Kari Cares, In the Cut Barbershop, Curly Q's BBQ, Niles Middle School and High School and the Niles-Buchanan YMCA. The organization expressed appreciation for the students' efforts.

"We are so grateful for the hard work and thoughtfulness of the Eastside students and families!" Niles Neighbors shared in a statement. "The goal of Niles Neighbors is to bring Unity to the Community, and through collaborations like this, and the kindness of our youth we can make that a reality."

With the success of this year's drive, Eastside's Student Council hopes to continue finding ways to serve – ensuring that lessons in leadership and kindness extend well beyond the classroom walls.

Thomas said he is proud of what the school accomplished.

"I'd just like to thank my fellow students at East Side for their help in this," he said. "I'm really proud of what we did."

Cass County high school students are invited to participate in sticker design contest

SUBMITTED

Photo provided

CASS COUNTY — Each election since 2024, Cass County voters have left the polls donning their choice of four colorful stickers with hand drawn representations of the region. As the 2026 voting season approaches, local youth will have the opportunity to illustrate the next round of "I Voted" stickers.

With the help of area high schools, Cass County Clerk/Register Monica McMichael is hosting another contest to select the new designs. The winning designs will be seen by thousands of voters on Election Day, serving as a badge of honor for those who have exercised their civic duty.

"We're seeking creative designs that will inspire civic pride and encourage voter participation in upcoming elections," McMichael said.

The project, launched for the first time in 2024, was designed to build excitement among young people who will soon be of voting age. McMichael said records show significantly lower participation among younger voters than older voters, and hopes the project brings awareness to the importance of voting among young people.

Submissions must include the words "I Voted" and be visually appealing. Participants may submit images on paper to be scanned in or digital images from a computer to their high school art teacher, or directly to the Cass County Clerk/Register's Office at 120 N. Broadway, Cassopolis. Designs can also be emailed to monicam@cassco.org. The deadline to submit a design is Friday, May 22, 2026.

In addition to being featured as this year's "I Voted" sticker distributed at polling places, the winning designs will be recognized on Cass County's social media platforms and website.

Participants must attend a Cass County high school or live in Cass County.

Questions should be directed to Cass County Clerk/Register Monica McMichael at monicam@cassco.org or (269) 445-4464.

Helping Hands of Cass County launches bike distribution project

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

CASS COUNTY — Helping Hands of Cass County is launching a new bike distribution project this spring, an initiative aiming to support adults who lack access to basic transportation.

Thanks to a grant from the Michigan Gateway Community Foundation and donations from Midwest Missions, Helping Hands can now provide used adult bikes for essential travel, whether it's commuting to work, school or handling everyday errands.

To be eligible for a bike, individuals must live, work or attend school in Cass County. If you or someone you know could use a gently used adult bike, please reach out to a support agency you're associated with, or have your school, employer, or church send a referral on their letterhead to Diane Seifert at (269) 699-5373, email dseifert123@outlook.com, or Robin Emenaker at (574) 333-6151, email robin43.emenaker@gmail.com. They will share more details about the referral process and determine if any safety gear is needed.

What constitutional carry would mean for Michigan gun owners

By CHAD LIVENGOOD
The Detroit News (TNS)

A group of Republican lawmakers wants to get rid of Michigan's law requiring residents to have a permit to carry a concealed pistol.

Legislation introduced this week in the GOP-controlled Michigan House would repeal the state's concealed pistol permit law, allowing residents to carry a handgun without any identification that they're permitted to do so.

The Republican-authored bills seek to make Michigan a so-called "constitutional carry" state, where residents can assert their Second Amendment right to bear arms when carrying a concealed handgun into public places.

"It's time for Michigan to put into law what dozens of other states across our country have already realized," state Rep. Mike Hoadley, R-Au Gres, said in a statement. "These permit requirements are a misguided attempt to protect people. In reality, they only serve as a hindrance to responsible gun owners who are already well-versed in gun safety. Whether you own a firearm or not, we have to recognize that regularly exercising our rights is the only way we can actually defend them."

Even if the legislation gets approved by the House, the bills face dim prospects of getting past the Democratic-controlled Michigan Senate, where senators have pursued legislation in recent years to significantly limit the places where individuals with concealed pistol licenses can carry a firearm.

House Bills 5653-5657 were introduced Tuesday in the Michigan House of Representatives and assigned to the judiciary committee.

Celebrate a life
SWEM CHAPEL
301 W Front St, Buchanan
269-471-2700
starksfamilyfh.com
Starks Family Funeral Homes & Cremation Services

Wagner FAMILY FUNERALS
burials • cremations
Only you can understand your loss...
...we care enough to try.
Connelly Chapel
Cassopolis
269.445.2435
Pobocik Chapel
Three Oaks
269.756.3831
wagnercares.com

Celebrate a life
CLARK CHAPEL
405 Center St, Dowagiac
269-471-2700
starksfamilyfh.com
Starks Family Funeral Homes & Cremation Services

Lorie Bowers, Agent
68935 Gateway Dr.
PO Box 623
Edwardsburg, MI
49112-0623
Bus: 269-663-7015
www.LorieBowers.com
Family is Why WE DO IT ALL
Call or visit for all of your insurance needs.
Office Hours:
Monday: 9 am to 6 pm
Tuesday & Thursday: 9 am to 5 pm
Wednesday & Friday: 9 am to 5 pm
Saturday by Appointment
LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR STATE FARM IS THERE®
StateFarm.com® • State Farm Insurance Companies
Home Offices: Bloomington, Illinois

Continuing Community Care
Open to the public! All ages welcome!
Physical Therapy
Occupational Therapy
Speech Therapy
We accept Medicare, Medicaid and most commercial insurances. Call to set up and schedule an appointment!
CASS COUNTY Outpatient Therapy Services
269-445-3801 • casscountymedicalcarefacility.org
23770 Hospital St., Cassopolis, MI 49031

We'll be there when you need us most
Mission Hills
Memorial Chapel, Crematory & Gardens
- Since 1953 -
Niles • 269-683-8333 • MissionHillsMemorialCCG.com

JIM D'S Body Shop
M-51 SOUTH, DOWAGIAC, MICHIGAN
269-782-2728
"Collision Repairs Are Our Business"
Body and Frame Repair
Insurance Work Welcome

Buchanan Area Senior Center
Add Well-Being to Your Life at the BASC!
• Fully Equipped Fitness Room
• Field Trips & Walk Days
• Knitting, Crocheting & Quilting
• Educational Programming
• Cards & Games
• Several Medical Checks
• Book Club & Garden Club
• Movies & More
Physical & Social Activities Keep the Body, Mind and Soul Healthier.
We welcome all older adults (55+) from Berrien County.
basc BUCHANAN AREA SENIOR CENTER
810 Rynearson St. • Buchanan, MI 49107 269-695-7119 • thebasc.org

Sports

Got results?
max.harden@leaderpub.com

Sibling connection a big piece of Dowagiac, Niles wrestling teams

By SCOTT HASSINGER
Leader Correspondent

DOWAGIAC — Two sets of area siblings step into the bright lights on prep wrestling's biggest stage this weekend as they compete in the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Individual state wrestling championships at Ford Field in Detroit.

Among several area qualifiers are Dowagiac junior Cinthia Villegas and her freshman brother Rooney Olmedo, along with Niles' senior Chase Brawley and his freshman sister Tess Brawley.

Wrestling starts on Friday at 10:30 a.m. with first round matches following the Grand March at 10 a.m. Quarterfinals and semifinal matches take place throughout the day, along with the consolation and blood round. Action continues Saturday at 10 a.m. with consolation matches and placing rounds with the finals getting underway at 3:30 p.m.

"Cinthia has definitely been a great leader and has helped grow the girls' side of our program. She is very coachable and knows the techniques and has been around our program. Her longevity and knowing how we run things around here are key. She was a state placer two years ago and has been ranked top four this season," said Dowagiac head coach Colin Burandt.

In the Girls' Division, Villegas (28-3) will compete at 140 pounds. Wrestling is a family tradition in Cinthina's family and she began competing in the sport at age 10 in the MyWay Program and still competes in Freestyle and Greco Tournaments in the offseason. This is her third time qualifying for state. This season she won her own district before finishing runners-up at regionals.

"I have five brothers so it's not a real surprise that I do wrestling," Cinthia Villegas said. "I score a majority of my points off my sweep single. As a lefty wrestler that move works well because they don't really see it coming."

See **SIBLINGS**, page B2

Scott Hassinger / For Leader Publications

Pictured left to right are Rooney Olmedo and Cinthia Villegas of Dowagiac and Tess and Chase Brawley from Niles.

Bobcats bow out

Brandywine falls to Schoolcraft in the D3 regional final

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

BANGOR — The Brandywine boys basketball team dug itself a hole it could not climb out of Thursday night.

The Bobcats' (20-6) season came to an end with a 62-50 loss to Schoolcraft (16-10) in Division 3 Regional Finals play.

A hot Schoolcraft start was Brandywine's undoing, as the Bobcats struggled against the size of 6-8 forward and Wayne State commit Jimmy Miller and the perimeter shooting of Ty Goddard, who scored 12 of his 21 in the first quarter. The Bobcats fell behind by as many as 21 in the first half and trailed 40-20 at halftime.

"I think they were shell-shocked in the first half," said head coach Nathan Knapp. "Schoolcraft came out hitting everything – credit to them. We play tough defense, but we just couldn't get going. It felt like an uphill battle; we could never get any progress or momentum. Nylon started the game on top, of course, but then it trickled. We had a few breakdowns defensively and they made us pay by hitting the three. Before you know it, we're down 20. The kids were shocked; they're not used to being down like that."

With their backs against the wall, Brandywine refused to give up. The Bobcats dialed up the pressure on defense and made it difficult to get the ball to Miller in the paint. A Will Hubbard 3-point play trimmed the deficit to 46-34 entering the fourth. While the Bobcats were able to trim the deficit to nine late in the fourth quarter, they could not complete a comeback.

"When we came in at halftime, I told them there are two options: we could roll over, or we could fight," Knapp said. "They said they weren't done. The kids fought their butts off in the second half… We had some good looks. We talked about going to a diamond press, but we felt our man-to-man pressure was wearing them down. We missed two right there in one run in the second quarter. I think we had three wide-open looks and missed. It was an 11-point game. I told them that's the way the ball bounces; they don't always go in."

When asked if he felt his team was a step slow defensively, Knapp said he felt his team was too busy thinking and could not react in time.

"We didn't want to lose shooters like [Kodee Bienz and Goddard] and the ones we focused on killed us a little bit," he said. "Even our traps tonight were off; we usually create havoc with that. We gave up a big lead in that first half and that killed us."

Goddard and Miller scored 21 and 20 points respectively for Schoolcraft and Bienz had 10. Seniors Nylen Goins and Ryder Richard scored 20 and 12 points respectively while Junior Will Hubbard added nine. Knapp reflected on the legacy his seniors will leave behind. Goins finished his time as a Bobcat with 1,495 career points, tied for eighth in area history.

"They meant everything," Knapp said. "They're special players. I got to experience that when we went through the state stuff; I just wanted them to have their legacy. They're right there behind it. We gave everything. They're going to be hard to replace."

After the game, Knapp told his returning players that the expectations for the program will not change and to use the loss as fuel for growth.

"We talk about it every year. We talked about how our season went from last year to this year with the learning they've done," he said. "It's a great group of kids and a great community. I've got to put time in during the off-season. We have to get a little stronger. We are strong, but tonight I thought they were a little more physical with us. We're taking steps in the right direction."

While the loss hurts, Knapp was proud of what his team accomplished this season and will always remember this team's heart and determination.

"They battled night in and night out," he said. "We were always a smaller school, and we just compete. They are fearless kids. We survived a brutal schedule. It's hard because you try to prepare for this moment all season through that tough schedule. They passed that test, but that first half just killed us. I felt the kids were focused and ready, but they were thinking too much instead of reacting."

SCHOOLCRAFT 62, BRANDYWINE 50

At Bangor
SCHOOLCRAFT (62)
Jimmy Miller 20, Kodee Bienz 10, Brody Epple 4, Bryce Lambe 7, Ty Goddard 21. Totals 24 8-9 62.
Nylen Goins 20, Emerson Gogley 2, Elihjia Burt 7, Will Hubbard 9, Ryder Richard 12. Totals 21 3-6 50.
BRANDYWINE (50)

Schoolcraft	**23**	**40**	**46**	**62**
Brandywine	**11**	**20**	**34**	**50**

3-point baskets: Schoolcraft 6 (Goddard 4, Bienz 2), Brandywine 5 (Goins 3, Burt 1, Richard 1). Total fouls: Schoolcraft 8, Brandywine 13. Records: Schoolcraft 16-10, Brandywine 20-6.

Photos by Nick Shelton / For Leader Publications

Brandywine seniors Nylen Goins (1) and Ryder Richard (11) look on during the final moments of Thursday's game against Schoolcraft.

Dowagiac falls to Three Rivers in D2 district opener

PMG STAFF

PLAINWELL — Three Rivers held off Dowagiac in the fourth quarter Wednesday night to post a 43-42 Division 2 girls basketball district victory.

The win was the fourth straight for the Wildcats, who will take an 11-11 record into Friday's district title game against host Plainwell. The four wins came by two points, in overtime, in double overtime and Wednesday's one-point verdict.

Dani Glass scored 17 points for Three Rivers, including a critical 3 in the fourth quarter. Neiraja Reyes added 12.

Dowagiac, which finished 8-12, got nine points from Jamela Bonds and eight apiece from Marlie Carpenter and Bree Campbell.

D3 district quarterfinals

THREE RIVERS 43, DOWAGIAC 42

At Plainwell
DOWAGIAC (42)
Claire Hess 5, Evie Lock 5, Marlie Carpenter 8, Niya Moss 5, Jamela Bonds 9, Bree Campbell 8, Khamari Mack 2. Totals 16 5-11 42.
THREE RIVERS (43)
Karsen Keller 4, Dani Glass 17, Natalie McGahan 6, Neiraja Reyes 12, Kyrstin Stelker 2, Braylee Burg 2. Totals 16 7-17 43.

Dowagiac	**10**	**17**	**33**	**42**
Three Rivers	**14**	**24**	**33**	**43**

3-point baskets – Dowagiac 5 (Campbell 2, Bonds 1, Moss 1, Hess 1), Three Rivers 4 (Glass 3, Reyes 1). Total fouls – Dowagiac 18, Three Rivers 9. Records – Dowagiac 8-12, Three Rivers 11-11

Hoyt heroics lift Niles to win over Lakeshore; Berrien Springs withstands Edwardsburg rally

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — Niles High School played host Wednesday to a pair of Division 2 district semifinal games that went down to the wire.

Freshman Elynne Hoyt willed Niles (12-11) to a 52-51 win over Lakeshore (3-19) in the first game and Berrien Springs (11-8) outlasted an Edwardsburg (6-16) comeback to win 59-57. The Vikings and Shamrocks will play at 7 p.m. Friday for a district championship.

"They battled. They kept their composure at the end," said Niles Coach Sarah Workman. "We missed a lot of shots and defensively we did not execute whatsoever. Overall, I'm not really happy with our performance. I'm happy that we came out on top and I'm proud of them for continuing to fight."

Trailing 49-51 with less than 20 seconds remaining, the Vikings got the ball in Hoyt's hands after a jump ball gave the Vikings possession. Hoyt drove to the basket and made the game-tying shot while being fouled in the process. She made the free throw and gave the Vikings a 52-51 lead, their first since the second quarter.

"We were just trying to get a stop," said Lakeshore Coach Aaron Toothman. "They really hurt us on the boards all night long. We got a rebound and brought the ball down and got a jump ball. When you get a rebound, you have to keep your chin up and we didn't. by chin. Unfortunately, the jump ball went their way."

Jeff Douglas / For Leader Publications

Niles freshman Elynne Hoyt (13) makes a fast break layup during Wednesday's D2 district semifinal against Lakeshore.

See **SEMIS**, page B5

Brandywine, Buchanan cruise to girls district wins

Photo provided

The Brandywine Bobcats girls coasted past New Buffalo 57-22 Wednesday in the D3 semifinals.

PMG STAFF

CASSOPOLIS — Second-ranked Brandywine will try to continue its dominance of Buchanan in Friday's Division 3 girls basketball district championship game.

The Bobcats raced out to a 24-0 first-quarter lead and coasted past New Buffalo 57-22 Wednesday in the semifinals. The Bucks used a big second quarter to roar past Cassopolis 43-26 in the other semifinal.

Josh Hood's team, now 22-1, has beaten the Bucks eight straight times, including 66-23 and 57-21 verdicts earlier this year. Brandywine is 28-8 against Buchanan since Hood took over as coach in 2009.

The Bobcats biggest challenge will be stopping 6-2 freshman Gabby Carson, who is averaging 15.7 points and 14.2 rebounds.

The Bobcats dominated Wednesday's game from start to finish with Zaya Price scoring 18 points and Lily Gill 12.

Brandywine will be trying to win its fourth straight district title and 13th in the past 17 years.

Buchanan 43, Cassopolis 26

Buchanan trailed Cassopolis 13-11 after one period. But the Bucks took control by outscoring the Rangers 12-2 in the second period to take a 23-15 halftime lead.

Carson dominated inside against Cass with 18 points, 21 rebounds, five steals and seven blocked shots. Reese Berry added 10 points, three assists and five steals for the Bucks.

BRANDYWINE 57, NEW BUFFALO 22

At Cassopolis
NEW BUFFALO (22)
Harper Bowman 4, Lila Lugbill 5, Rylee Rudolph 2, Greta Vollman 2, Emma Seifert 2, Addison Lynch 5, Brianna Taylor 2. Totals 10 1-4 22.
BRANDYWINE (57)
Hailey Smith 7, Macy Pellow 0, Karleigh Byrd 3, Sydney Olson 5, Zaya Price 18, Mackenna Price 6, Lily Gill 12, Chelsy Olson 3, Brie Reese 0, Aiiyanna Walker 3, Sydney Roeder 0, MaKenzii Myer 0, Brook Brumitt 0. Totals 24 6-9 57.

New Buffalo	**0**	**5**	**11**	**22**
Brandywine	**24**	**42**	**46**	**57**

3-point baskets – New Buffalo 1 (Lynch 1), Brandywine 3 (Smith 1, S. Olson 1, C. Olson 1). Total fouls – New Buffalo 10, Brandywine 9. Records – New Buffalo 7-12, Brandywine 22-1.

BUCHANAN 43, CASSOPOLIS 26

At Cassopolis
CASSOPOLIS (26)
Madalynn Yakel 3, Jamaya Hart 1, Cheyanne Redmond 6, Madison Nelson 2, Marlana Antisdale 2, Ryley Bowsher 12. Totals 10 2-5 26.
BUCHANAN (43)
Reese Berry 10, Aspen Berry 5, Justyce Cashier 7, Cora Weinburg 3, Gabby Carson 18, Aberdeen Phillips 0. Totals 15 11-26 43.

Cassopolis	**13**	**15**	**23**	**26**
Buchanan	**11**	**23**	**3**	**43**

3-point baskets – Cassopolis 4 (Bowsher 2, Redmond 1, Yakel 1), Buchanan 2 (A. Berry 1, Weinburg 1). Total fouls (fouled out) – Cassopolis 19, Buchanan 12 (Phillips). Records – Cassopolis 16-7, Buchanan 12-9.

Niles falls to hot-shooting Holland Christian in regional semifinal

By BEN SANDERS
Paxton Media Group

OTSEGO — Niles was missing some of its best players for long stretches of Tuesday's Division 2 boys basketball regional semifinal.

Holland Christian wasn't missing much of anything.

The Maroons ran away with a 71-44 victory, shooting 60 percent from the floor and making six 3-pointers.

"They played really well," Niles coach Mark Haase said. "They deserved to win. They were the much better team tonight."

Niles (18-7) had an 8-6 lead with 4:32 left in the first quarter when standout senior Brayden Favors injured his ankle. The Vikings were already without 6-foot-9 center Donovyn Williams, who went to the bench after picking up two fouls in the first three minutes.

Holland Christian (18-6) immediately went on a 9-0 run, and the Maroons were just getting started. They led 25-17 after one quarter and extended the margin to 47-24 at the half with a dominant second quarter.

Point guard Titus Spencer scored 24 points, including three 3-pointers, and Jake Holcomb added 23 points, most of them coming under the basket.

"We talked about playing together," Holland Christian coach Brad Jansen said. "Obviously we've got some scorers on our team, but I thought we made the right decisions. We really talked about making them have to play defense. I think they're so good at getting out in transition and taking away early ones that we just really focused on finding the next pass.

"Obviously we shot really well tonight, but I think we moved the ball. I think we had 25 assists, that's huge. I'm really happy with our guys."

Brenden Olsen led Niles with 16 points. Favors returned to the game late in the first quarter but was noticeably limping, and left for good in the third quarter with just five points. Williams was called for his third foul early in the second quarter, and also ended with five points.

"Donny got a couple quick fouls, that hurt," Haase said. "Brayden went down with an ankle – he gutted it out, but he couldn't play really, you could tell with that. That put us in a little bit of a bad position, but the way they shot the ball in the first half, it was going to be a tough night for us to win regardless."

Derrick Hill and Bryce Young added six points each for Niles. They're part of a large outgoing senior class along with Favors, Olsen, Acie Kirtdoll, Jarico Sisk and Isaiah Qualls.

"A group of seniors that put a lot of time, effort and energy in and we're going to miss them," Haase said. "Some really good ballplayers in there too. We won the second-most games in the last 20 years at Niles. To get to a regional, win a district, that's pretty special. That's what I told them after the game. It's not going to mean a lot now, it's going to hurt a little bit, but when it's all said and done, it was pretty successful."

HOLLAND CHRISTIAN 71, NILES 44

NILES (44)
Brayden Favors 2 0-0 5, Acie Kirtdoll 1 0-0 2, Brenden Olsen 8 0-0 16, Derrick Hill 2 0-0 6, Ian Riggenbach 0 2-2 2, Ceon Kirtdoll 1 0-0 2, Bryce Young 2 2-2 6, Donovyn Williams 2 0-0 5. Totals: 18 4-4 44.
HOLLAND CHRISTIAN (71)
Moses Vanderbilt 4 0-0 9, Titus Spencer 9 3-4 24, Simon Grotenhuis 2 0-0 4, Will Langejans 1 0-0 2, Jake Holcomb 11 0-1 23, Davis Alderink 4 0-0 9. Totals: 31 3-5 71.

Niles	**17**	**7**	**8**	**12**	**— 44**
H. Christian	**25**	**22**	**16**	**8**	**— 71**

3-point goals – Niles 4 (Hill 2, Favors, Williams), Holland Christian 6 (Spencer 3, Holcomb, Vanderbilt, Alderink). Total fouls – Niles 10, Holland Christian 6. Fouled out – none. Technical fouls – none.
Records – Niles 18-7, Holland Christian 18-6.

Contact: bsanders@TheHP.com

Don Campbell / HP staff

Niles' Derrick Hill drives over Holland Christian's Simon Grotenhuis during Tuesday night's regional semifinal at Otsego High School.

SIBLINGS

From page B1

Scott Hassinger / For Leader Publications

Dowagiac wrestling coach Colin Burandt (far right) is pictured at Monday's practice with the Chieftains' state qualifiers.

Cinthia is the second oldest in her family. Her older brother Israel Villegas was a state qualifier at Dowagiac and wrestled one season for Southwestern Michigan College. She has a twin brother Jacob Villegas along with her brother Rooney who both currently wrestle for Dowagiac.

"I'm just really proud of her. When she made it to state as a freshman it was big deal for her and I was glad to be able go watch her compete. Now being teammates, siblings and getting to go compete at state together is really neat. We also have three younger brothers who wrestle too. At home its all about wrestling and its been in our family for years. In practice we give each other lots of tips to help one another get better. All of our family and teammates will be at state to cheer us on," Rooney Olmedo said.

Cinthia Villegas aspires to wrestle in college with plans to major in Sports Medicine and become an athletic trainer.

"I'm ready for this weekend both mentally and physically. I'm not going to be scared. My goal is to place at state. I placed two years ago as a freshman, but fell short as a sophomore," Cinthia Villegas said.

Cinthia has helped a great deal in the growth of the Lady Chieftains' program. There were just a couple girls on the team her freshman year, but participation has increased to around 18 in the 2025-26 season.

"I've just tried to encourage alot of girls to come out for the team the last couple years and we had quite a few return this year," Cinthia Villegas said.

A few years ago both Cinthia and Rooney stopped competing in other sports to solely concentrate on wrestling.

"I feel like this sport brings my sister and I closer. We get to sometimes be practice partners and teammates," Rooney said.

Olmedo is a district champion and finished fourth in the Belding Regional.

"I like to take people down and my Super Duck move is probably my best one. I want to place top five and even higher in the future. Maybe even be a state champ if I play my cards right. Winning a title is my goal in high school," Olmedo said. "Mental preparation has been the biggest key and not worrying about what my opponent has accomplished when I take the mat. You have to just concentrate on knowing what you do best."

Just like his older sister, Burandt stresses a high work ethic as a big key for Olmedo.

"Rooney is a student of the sport. He does freestyle and Greco in the offseason. He's not scared to go out and wrestle anyone and can handle the pressure of both wins and losses. Sticking to his game plan in each match and to not wrestle the moment is critical. His experience is a big strength," Burandt said.

Olmedo finished runners-up at the national tournament in freestyle and sixth in Greco last summer.

Cinthia Villegas will be joined in the Girls' Division by her freshman teammate Bailey Ottinger (25-8) at 155 pounds, while sophomore Khalif Reyna (39-10) and senior Cameron White (37-8) at 150 have also qualified for Dowagiac.

"Cam has really bought in and done a phenomenal job with a big upset of the fifth-ranked wrestler in regional semifinals. Khalif is an absolute athlete who is super athletic and has figured out how good he can be. Bailey is strong and still has raw talent, but her technique is really starting to come together," Burandt said.

Dowagiac's state qualifiers played a big part in the Chieftains winning a team district title and advancing to the team regional meet again this winter.

Meanwhile the Brawley siblings, the son and daughter of Niles' athletic director Matt Brawley, are both making their first appearance at state in different points in their wrestling careers.

Chase Brawley (42-8) has qualified at 285 pounds, while Tess Brawley (29-10) will compete at 120.

It was Chase that initially got Tessa involved in wrestling.

"I always watched him wrestle and when I was in sixth grade I got involved in wrestling. Seeing him do certain moves made me want to join and do that as well," Tess Brawley said.

Learning how to throw people was one of the first things Tess picked up from watching her brother and his teammates.

"I like throwing people, its fun. One of my better moves is a Bulldog, a front headlock and you reach over their back and drag them down," Tess Brawley said.

One of Tess Brawley's biggest wins this season came at 115 pounds over Sophia Pierce of Otsego, a state qualifier last season, at the Three Rivers Tournament.

"I want to place and get top eight, but mostly I want to have fun this weekend. Watching my brother compete gets me pumped up for my own matches and more intense. Wrestling makes me stronger for my other sport I play," said Tess Brawley, who also plays catcher on Niles' softball team.

Chase Brawley believes his intensity in practice over the course of the season has played an important part in Tess' success.

"I think by Tess watching how I practice during the season has really helped her itensity. In the latter meets this year, I could see a big jump in how hard she worked in practice to make it to state," said Chase Brawley, who recently signed a national letter of intent to play football at North Central College in Naperville, IL. His future plans are to become a firefighter.

Chase credits former teammate Jimmy Guya, along with a good friend and a former Niles Brandywine grappler for coming in throughout the season to work with him in practice.

"One of my biggest improvements this season has probably been not forcing things as much I did earlier this year," said Chase Brawley, who says the lap drop is his best move. He's wrestled at 285 all four years in his career.

"My goal this weekend is to take first. I like the side of the bracket I'm on. Most of the kids on my side haven't seen me this year so I feel that's an advantage," Chase Brawley said.

Niles wrestling coach Mason Stevenson is proud of the Vikings' brother-siter combination.

"Chase has been a huge part of our program the last four year so its nice to see him finally qualify for state. He's become stronger and much smarter on the mat. He takes more time and sets things up better. If we can keep him calm and do his own thing correctly then he has a good shot," Steveson said.

"Tess is a very tough and determined wrestler. She's not afraid of the dogfight. She catches alot of her opponents and gets pins," Steveson said. "Our girls side of the program has really taken off the last couple seasons."

Classifieds Marketplace

Niles, Niles Charter, Buchanan, Edwardsburg, Cassopolis, Dowagiac, Sister Lakes and the surrounding areas

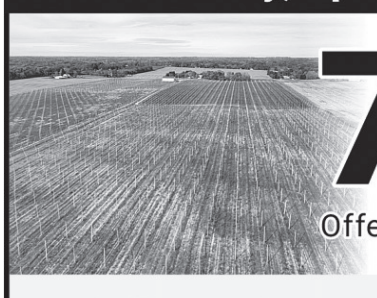
25 N. 2nd St., Niles, MI 49120
(269) 429-1396

LeaderPub.com
legals@pmginmi.com
classified@heraldpalladium.com

Calvin Township Notice of March Board of Review
March 3, 2026 – Organizational Meeting will be held at the Township Hall, located at 18693 Mt. Zion St, Cassopolis, at 10:00 am. No appeals will be heard at this meeting.
March 11th – Official MBOR, held at the Township Hall from 9:30am – 3:30pm. Appeals will be heard by appointment, and these can be scheduled by calling Krys at (269) 228-3331 or email kam.assessing@gmail.com. Walk-ins will be seen as permits. Mailed or Emailed petitions must be received by March 13th at 5:00pm.
March 12th – MBOR, held at the Township Hall from 3:00pm – 9:00pm, located at the Township Hall. Appeals will be heard by appointment, which can be scheduled by calling Krys at (269) 228-3331 or email kam.assessing@gmail.com.
Walk-ins will be seen as permits. Mailed or Emailed petitions must be received by March 11th at 5:00pm.

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM on 4/1/2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Names of Mortgagor(s): Ronald Reeves. Original mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Quicken Loans, LLC. Date of mortgage: 4/29/2021. Mortgage recorded on 5/7/2021 as Document No. 178441, in Liber 1195, Page 1573. Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Rocket Mortgage, LLC. Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: $184,942.67 Mortgaged premises: Situated in Cass County, and described as: LAND SITUATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF HOWARD, COUNTY OF CASS, STATE OF MICHIGAN, IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: LOT(S) 8 OF HORTON ACRES ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN LIBER 1-H OF PLATS, PAGE 353 OF CASS COUNTY RECORDS. Commonly known as 2725 Horton Ct, Niles, MI 49120. The redemption period will be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days after the statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is determined abandoned under MCL 600.3241, the redemption period will be 1 month from the date of such sale. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes pursuant to MCL 600.3240(16), the redemption period is 1 year from the date of such sale. The redemption period may be extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Date of Notice: 02/28/2026. Codilis & Moody, P.C. 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100 Burr Ridge, IL 60527 (313) 536-2500. This law firm is a debt collector. C&M File 23-26-00066 (02-28)(03-21)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on March 18, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Blake M. Anderson and Madeline G. Gordon
Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for lender and lender's successors and/or assigns
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Freedom Mortgage Corporation
Date of Mortgage: February 24, 2023
Date of Mortgage Recording: February 27, 2023
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $259,966.58
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Village of Vandalia, Cass County, Michigan, and described as: The South 1/2 of the following described parcel: Commencing 13.43 chains North of the East 1/4 post of Section 27, Town 6 South, Range 14 West; thence North on Section line 3.03 chains; thence West 3.29 chains; thence South along Mill Race to point West of beginning; thence East to beginning.
ALSO, The North 1/2 of the following described parcel: Commencing 13.43 chains North of the East 1/4
post of Section 27, Town 6 South, Range 14 West; thence North on Section line 3.03 chains; thence West 3.29 chains; thence South along Mill Race to point West of beginning; thence East to beginning.
Common street address (if any): 60312 N Main St, Vandalia, MI 49095-9505
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: February 14, 2026
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515 1584318 (02-14)(03-07)

6± Mi. from Benton Harbor - Berrien County, MI
LAND AUCTION
Wednesday, April 1 • 11am

77± Acres
Offered in 2 Tracts
• 75 Tillable Acres • 700 gpm Irrigation Well • Drip Irrigation Infrastructure • (2) Pole Type Buildings
AUCTION LOCATION: Lake Michigan Gardens, 2584 E Napier Ave, Benton Harbor, MI 49022
INSPECTION DATES: 3/12 • 11am-1pm & 3/19 • 3-5pm
SELLER: Hop Head Farms LLC
AUCTION MANAGERS: Drew A Lamle • 260.609.4926 & Edward D Boyer • 574.215.7653
#6501452820, #6501225192, #6505397356 3% Buyer's Premium
SCHRADER Real Estate and Auction Company, Inc.
800.451.2709
SchraderAuction.com

RESERVE THIS SPACE TODAY!

POKAGON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING 2026
Pokagon Township Board of Review will meet to hear appeals of the 2026 Assessments at:
Pokagon Township Hall 30683 Peavine St. Dowagiac, MI 49047
Tuesday March 3rd 5:30 P.M. Organizational Meeting, No Appeals
Monday March 9th 9 A.M. To 12 Noon & 1 P.M. to 4 P.M.
Thursday March 12th 1:30 P.M. To 4:30 P.M. & 6:00 P.M. to 9:00P.M.
Residents and Non-Residents my protest by letter and must be received by March 12th, 2026

Beginning factors and ratios for each class of property are as follows:
Tentative Ratio % Factor **Industrial** 47.17 1.0600
Agriculture 49.23 1.0156 **Residential** 52.48 0.9527
Commercial 47.83 1.0454 **Personal** 50.00 1.0000

Assessments have been adjusted to result in an anticipated multiplier of 1.0000 for each class. With proposal A in effect the Taxable Values, excluding new construction and transfers of ownership are capped at the rate of inflation, 2.7%.

Linda Preston
Pokagon Township Supervisor

FORECLOSURE NOTICE Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, March 18, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Robert A. Puza, Single to Fifth Third Bank National Association f/k/a Fifth Third Bank, Mortgagee, dated March 25, 2019, and recorded on April 17, 2019, in Liber 1153, Page 1631, Cass County Records, , on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Eighteen Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy-Four and 32/100 ($18,874.32) including interest at the rate of 5.49000% per annum. Said premises are situated in the Township of LaGrange, Cass County, Michigan, and are described as: Lots 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131 and 132, Kelsey Lake Terrace, according to the recorded plat thereof in Liber 1 of Plats Page 170 in Register of Deeds of Cass County, Michigan. Commonly known as: 56896 SUNNYSIDE AVE, CASSOPOLIS, MI 49031 If the property is eventually sold at foreclosure sale, the redemption period will be 6.00 months from the date of sale unless the property is abandoned or used for agricultural purposes. If the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241 and/or 600.3241a, the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of sale, or 15 days after statutory notice, whichever is later. If the property is presumed to be used for agricultural purposes prior to the date of the foreclosure sale pursuant to MCL 600.3240, the redemption period is 1 year. Pursuant to MCL 600.3278, if the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, the borrower(s) will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. TO ALL PURCHASERS: The foreclosing mortgagee can rescind the sale. In that event, your damages are, if any, limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Dated: February 14, 2026, Randall S. Miller & Associates, P.C. Attorneys for Fifth Third Bank National Association f/k/a Fifth Third Bank 43252 Woodward Avenue, Suite 180, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302, (248) 335-9200 Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Case No. 25MI00945-1
(02-14)(03-07)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 a.m., on March 18, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT, ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY. Default has occurred in the conditions of a Mortgage (the "Mortgage") made by DANIEL OSBAN, a single man, as Mortgagor(s), to United Federal Credit Union, as Mortgagee. The Mortgage is dated October 28, 2022, and was recorded November 1, 2022, at Liber 1225, Page 683 of Cass County Records. The amount claimed to be due on said Mortgage and unpaid at the date of this Notice is TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED TWENTY-NINE AND 94/100 ($250,929.94) DOLLARS, including interest on the applicable indebtedness at a rate of 5.875% per annum. This sum will increase as additional interest, costs, expenses, and attorney fees accrue under the Mortgage and its related note and which are permitted under Michigan law after the date of this Notice. No legal or equitable proceedings have been instituted to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage, and the power of sale in the Mortgage has become operative by reason of the default. At the date and time as referenced previously in this Notice, the Mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the property herein described, or some part of them, at public auction, to the highest bidder, for the purpose of satisfying the amount due and unpaid on the Mortgage, along with interest due, the legal costs and charges of sale as allowed by statute and/or the Mortgage, and any taxes and insurance that the Mortgagee pays on or prior to the date of said sale. The property mentioned and described in the Mortgage, as located in the Township of Ontwa, County of Cass, and State of Michigan, are more particularly described as follows: The South 55 feet of Outlot "B", Lawndale, according to the recorded plat thereof as recorded in Liber 1, page 226, Cass County Records. Excepting Beginning at the Southeast corner thereof; thence North 89° 56' West along the Northerly line of Oak Street, 165 feet; thence Northerly, 55 feet; thence South 89° 56' East, 165 feet to the West line of Cherry Lane; thence South, 55 feet to the point of beginning; Address: 24268 Oak Street, Edwardsburg, MI 49112; Tax Parcel No.: 14-090-185-020-00; together with all existing or subsequently erected or affixed buildings, improvements, and fixtures; all easements, rights of way, streets, roads, alleys, and public places, privileges, and appurtenances, public or private, now or later used in connection with the premises; and all rights to make divisions of the land that are exempt from the platting requirements of all applicable land division or platting acts, as amended from time to time. Attention Purchasers: the foreclosing Mortgagee reserves the right to cancel the sale prior to sale or to rescind this sale at any time. In that event, your damages, if any, will be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at the sale, plus interest. If the mortgaged property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention Homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. The length of the redemption period will be six (6) months from date of sale, unless the redemption period is shortened pursuant to MCL 600.3241a or MCL 600.3238, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of sale or as otherwise provided by statute. DATED: February 14, 2026, ANDREW W. BARNES (P70571) BUTZEL LONG P.C. ATTORNEYS FOR UNITED FEDERAL CREDIT UNION 317 Center Street South Haven, MI 49090 269-287-2010 (02-14)(03-07)

Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Cass County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on March 18, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information:
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Jayneth Nelson, a married woman
Original Mortgagee: Household Finance Corporation III
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Citigroup Mortgage Loan Trust 2018-B
Date of Mortgage: March 15, 2002
Date of Mortgage Recording: March 20, 2002
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $31,566.80
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in Village of Vandalia, Cass County, Michigan, and described as: Lots 20 and 21, 3rd Addition, Village of Vandalia
Common street address (if any): 18164 W State St, Vandalia, MI 49095-9701
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: February 14, 2026
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1584134 (02-14)(03-07)

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in CASS County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on March 18, 2026. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE INFORMATION: Default has been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage made by Stefon Luckey, a single man, whose address is 215 W. State Street, Cassopolis, Michigan 49031, as original Mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Rocket Mortgage LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC, being a mortgage dated September 10, 2021, and recorded on September 16, 2021 in Liber 1203 Page 1781, Cass County Records, State of Michigan and then assigned to Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC, as assignee as documented by an assignment dated November 11, 2025 and recorded on November 13, 2025 in Liber 1268 Page 1460, Cass County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of SIXTY-NINE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED THIRTY-FOUR AND 77/100 DOLLARS ($69,534.77). Said premises are situated in the Village of Cassopolis, County of Cass, State of Michigan, and are described as: LOT NUMBER 4 AND THE WEST ONE-HALF OF LOT NUMBER 9, BLOCK 1 SOUTH, RANGE 2 WEST, IN THE ORIGINAL PLAT OF THE VILLAGE OF CASSOPOLLS, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF AS RECORDED IN LIBER 54 OF DEEDS, PAGE 575, CASS COUNTY RECORDS. Street Address: 215 W. State Street, Cassopolis, Michigan 49031 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless the property is determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA § 600.3241a in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of the sale. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCLA § 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: IF YOU ARE A MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER ON ACTIVE DUTY, IF YOUR PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY HAS CONCLUDED LESS THAN 90 DAYS AGO, OR IF YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO ACTIVE DUTY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PARTY FORECLOSING THE MORTGAGE AT THE TELEPHONE NUMBER STATED IN THIS NOTICE. Dated: February 14, 2026, For more information, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing: Robert A. Blumberg (P87490), Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC, 30 North LaSalle St., Suite 3650 Chicago, Illinois, 60602. Telephone: (312) 541-9710 File No.: MI 26 6967 (02-14)(03-07)

SILVER CREEK TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
SITE PLAN REVIEW APPLICATION AND MEETING NOTICE

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SILVER CREEK, CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Silver Creek Township Planning Commission will review the site plan application on March 25, 2026 commencing at 6:30 p.m. at the Silver Creek Township Hall, 32764 Dixon Street, Dowagiac, MI 49047, within the Township.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the item(s) to be considered at said meeting are as follows:

· The request of Silver Creek Poultry, Inc. for site plan review for the implementation an accessory use medium solar energy system on its property located at 51807 Bakeman Road within the Township (Parcel No. 14-130-010-037-01). The parcel is 57.79 acres in size, is located in the AR Agricultural/Rural Residential District Zoning Classification and has as its principal use an agricultural production facility. The applicant proposes a 342-panel 4,680 square foot ground mounted solar energy system to generate power for its on-site poultry operation. Site plan review considerations for the Planning Commission are contained in Section 155.095-155.101 of the Zoning Ordinance. Medium accessory use solar arrays are addmitionally subject to the standards contained in Section 155.24C of the Zoning Ordinance. Additional standards for consideration of accessory use medium solar energy systems to be applied by the Planning Commission are contained in Section 155.24C. Township Zoning Ordinance.

· Such other and further matters as may properly come before the planning commission.

Anyone interested in reviewing the application for the above or the Township Zoning Ordinance may examine a copy of the same at the Silver Creek Township Hall during regular business hours of regular business days hereafter until noon on the date of the hearing and may further examine the same at said public meeting. The Township Zoning Ordinance is also accessible via internet at www.silvercreektwpmi.gov.

Written comments will be received from any interested persons concerning the foregoing by the Silver Creek Township Clerk at the Township Hall at any time during regular business hours up to the date of the meeting and may be further received by the Planning Commission at the meeting.

All interested persons are invited to be present at the aforesaid time and place.

Silver Creek Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the meeting impaired and audio tapes of printed material being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities at the meeting upon four (4) days' notice to the Silver Creek Township Clerk. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Silver Creek Township Clerk at the address or telephone number listed below.

SILVER CREEK TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
By: Jess Honn, Township Clerk
32764 Dixon St.
Dowagiac, MI 49047
(269) 424-3025
www.silvercreektwpmi.gov

0500 MERCHANDISE

LOOK!

CJ'S THIS N' THAT FLEA MARKET

"A little bit of everything and a whole lot of deals!'

Antiques, collectibles, new and used merchandise.

Vendor spots available!

6681 US Hwy 31
Berrien Springs, MI 49103

Open Sat & Sun 11AM-5PM

574-807-5276

0900 LEGALS

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF Berrien

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

CASE NO.
2025-0867-DE-R

Estate of: Bradley Adam Robertson
Date of birth: 12/09/1935

TO ALL CREDITORS: *

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Bradley Adam Robertson, died 11/27/2016. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Beth Williams, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 811 Port St. St. Joseph, MI 49085 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date 02/27/2025

Nicholas Raymond Hogue
P81291
Attorney name **Bar no.**
107 Pennsylvania Ave
Address
Dowagiac, MI 49047
City, State, Zip
269-782-9895
Telephone no.

Beth Williams
Personal representative
5934 Diane Dr
Address
Berrien Springs, MI 49103
City, state, zip
574.485.9436
Telephone

Annual Performance Report for Housing The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indian's **Annual Performance Report for Housing** is available for any residents to review. You can view it on our website at Housing Programs – Pokagon Band of Potawatomi or come and review it at the Housing & Community Development office beginning Monday, February 23 through Monday, March 23, 2026. The address for Housing & Community Development is 57824 Potawatomi Trail, Dowagiac, MI 49047. Migwetth Thank you,

Auto Auction
Where : Automotive Plus 2411 S. 11th St. Niles MI 49120
Phone Number : 269-684-4700
Date of Auction : Thursday, March 12, 2026
Time of Auction : 10 a.m.

2015 Mini Cooper
2023 Tao Tao Moped
2012 GMC Yukon Hybrid

0900 LEGALS

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
Cass COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

CASE NO. and JUDGE
2025-323-DE

Court address:
60296 M-62,
Cassopolis, MI 49031
Court phone no.
269-4454454

Estate of Joanne Hall, deceased
Date of birth: 12/02/1950

TO ALL CREDITORS: **

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, Joanne Hall died 05/27/2025. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to William Paul Lofton personal representative, or to both the probate court at 60296 M-62, Cassopolis, MI 49031 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: 03/03/2026

Attorney: John R. Colip
Bar no. P25250
12 Longmeadow Village Drive, Suite 100
Niles, MI 49120
269-591-6915

William Paul Lofton
Personal representative(s)
64205 Union Road
Vandalia, MI 49095
773-675-0446

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
Cass COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

CASE NO. and JUDGE
2025-350-DE
Hon. Carol M. Bealor

Court address Court telephone no.
60296 M-62, Suite 10,
Cassopolis, MI 49031
269-445-4454

Estate of: Charles Arthur Hundt
Date of birth:* 06/19/1952

TO ALL CREDITORS:**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Charles Arthur Hundt, died 08/16/2025. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Charles Hundt II, personal representative, or to both the probate court 60296 M-62, Suite 10, Cassopolis, MI 49031 at and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date 02/11/2026

Laura E. Volkmann P71882
Attorney name **Bar no.**
530 Venture Park Drive
Address
Kalamazoo, MI 49009
City, state, zip
269-459-1432
Telephone no.

Charles Hundt II
Personal representative
11395 Redwing Ct
Address
Fishers, IN 46037
City, state, zip
317-490-9790
Telephone no.

People Do Read Small Ads. You Did!

0900 LEGALS

STATE OF MICHIGAN
PROBATE COURT
BERRIEN COUNTY

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Decedent's Estate

CASE NO. and JUDGE
2026-0053-DE-R
Hon. Brian S. Berger

Estate of: Jane E. Martin, Deceased
Date of Birth: 05/20/1939

TO ALL CREDITORS:

NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, Jane E. Martin, died 11/13/2025.
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against estate will be forever barred unless presented to Daniel Blume, Personal Representatives, or to both the probate court at 811 Port Street, Floor 4, St. Joseph, MI 49085 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: March 7, 2026

Attorney Name:
James J. Mollison, P17884
4 South Lincoln Avenue
Niles, MI 49120
269-684-7600
Cell 269-930-4170

Personal Representative(s):
Daniel Blume
#5 Canaday Street
Inman, SC 29349
864-473-7017

STATE OF MICHIGAN
43 JUDICIAL CIRCUIT - FAMILY DIVISION
Cass COUNTY

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF HEARING REGARDING PETITION FOR NAME CHANGE

CASE NO. and JUDGE
2026-042-NC
Hon. Carol Montavon Bealor

Court address
Law & Courts Bldg., 60292 M-62, Cassopolis, MI 49031
Court telephone no.
269-445-4454

In the matter of: Isabelle Rose Sullivan

TO ALL PERSONS, including: (specify non-custodial parent's name here, if applicable) Jordan Michael Sullivan whose address is unknown and whose interest in the matter may be barred or affected by the following:
TAKE NOTICE: Margaret Elizabeth Poehlman has filed a petition for name change. A name change hearing will be held on April 20, 2026, at 8:30 AM at Law & Courts Building, 60296 M-62, Cassopolis, MI 49031 via Zoom video: ID 952 7920 1368, PW: 385529 before Judge Carol Montavon Bealor to change the name of: Isabelle Rose Sullivan to Isabelle Rose Poehlman.

Notice of Self Storage Sale
Please take notice Just **Simple Storage - Menominee located at N710 County Rd 577, Menoninee, MI, 49858** intends to hold an Auction of storage units in default of payment. **The sale will occur as an Online auction via www.bid13.com on 3/19/2026 at 12:00 PM.** Unless stated otherwise the description of the contents are household goods, furnishings and garage essentials. Sarah Cairns/Sarah A Cairns; Vincent Driscoll; Evan Casey/Evan Joseph Casey; Evan Driscoll. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. 7528-336696

LAGRANGE TOWNSHIP
2026
BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING
Lagrange Township Hall 58253 M-62. Cassopolis, MI 49031
Organizational meeting March 3rd 3:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.
Monday, March 9th 2:00 P.M to 5:00 P.M. & 6:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.
Tuesday, March 17th 9:00 A.M. to Noon & 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.
Resident and Non-Resident taxpayers may send letters of protest and must be received by Wednesday, March 17th, 2026

Tentative	Ratio %	Factor
Agriculture	45.63	1.0958
Commercial	46.24	1.0813
Industrial	48.76	1.0254
Residential	42.77	1.1690
Personal	50.00	1.0000

Assessments have been adjusted to result in an anticipated multiplier of 1.0000 for each class. With proposal A in effect the Taxable Values, excluding new construction and ownership transfers are capped at the rate of inflation, 2.7%.

Brittany File
LaGrange Township Supervisor

PUBLIC NOTICE/ LOCAL ASR NOTICE

The Towers, LLC proposes to build a 155-foot (165-foot overall) monopole communications tower. Anticipated lighting application is medium intensity dual red/white strobes. The Site location is located at 1107 Carberry Road, Niles, Cass County, Michigan, 49120, (41° 50' 7.92" N, 86° 12' 38.11" W). The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Antenna Structure Registration (ASR, Form 854) filing number is A1376582. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMENTS – Interested persons may review the application at www.fcc.gov/asr/applications by entering the filing number above. Should interested parties raise environmental concerns, the FCC requires parties to file Requests for Environmental Review online, and instructions for making such filings can be found at www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest.
HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMENTS - In accordance with FCC regulations (47 CFR § 1.1307) for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), parties interested in commenting on this Federal undertaking relative to potential effects on cultural or historic properties should contact GSS, Inc., 3311 109th Street, Urbandale, IA 50322; Ph. (515) 331-2103 within 30 days of the posting of this notice (Reference GSS #W25308).

TOWNSHIP OF CALVIN

CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF OBLIGATION TO CUT WEEDS

To: The residents and property owners of the Township of Calvin, Cass County, Michigan and any other interested persons.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that in accordance with Michigan Public Act 359 of 1941, as amended, and Township Ordinance No.18-04, as amended, all weeds in excess of 8 inches in height within platted subdivisions and condominium subdivisions, including vacant lots, and in unplatted lands with a dwelling or other occupied building thereon must be cut to a depth of 165 feet by **May 1, 2026 and must remain cut throughout the balance of said year by the owner or tenant in charge of the premises.**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Township of Calvin may enter the premises and cut the same as frequently as necessary during 2026 to comply with the foregoing regulations and may charge the cost thereof against the property owner and for collection may place the amount upon the next tax roll of the Township as a tax lien against the offending premises.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that any owner in default of the foregoing obligation to cut shall also be subject to a civil fine of up to $500 for each violation. Such cutting obligation shall not apply to fields devoted to growing any small grain food crops such as wheat, corn, oats, barley, or rye and garden vegetables.

Published in accordance with said Public Act and Ordinance by order of the Calvin Township Board.

CALVIN TOWNSHIP
Michelle Anderson, Clerk
18727 Mount Zion Street
Cassopolis MI 49031
(269) 476-2620

TOWNSHIP OF SILVER CREEK

CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF OBLIGATION TO CUT WEEDS, GRASS & UNCONTROLLED PLANT GROWTH

TO: The residents and property owners of the Township of Silver Creek, Cass County, Michigan and any other interested persons.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that in accordance with Michigan Public Act 359 of 1941, as amended, and Township Ordinance No. 19-02 all weeds and uncontrolled plant growth in excess of 18 inches in height on all parcels except those in the A-R District, in shoreline preservation projects in all districts, and in large tracts of undeveloped land in the R-1 district over one acre in size must be cut by **May 1st of 2026 and must remain cut throughout the balance of said year by the owner or tenant in charge of the premises.** In default thereof;

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Township of Silver Creek may enter the premises and cut the same as frequently as necessary during 2026 to comply with the foregoing regulations and may charge the cost thereof against the property owner and for collection may place the amount upon the next tax roll of the Township as a tax lien against the offending premises.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that any owner in default of the foregoing obligation to cut shall also be subject to a civil fine of up to $500 for each violation. Such cutting obligation shall not apply to fields devoted to growing any small grain or vegetable crop.

This notice is published in accordance with said Public Act and Ordinance by order of the Silver Creek Township Board.

Silver Creek Township
Jess Honn, Clerk
32764 Dixon Street
P. O. Box 464
Dowagiac, MI 49047
www.silvercreektwpmi.org
269-424-3025

CITY OF NILES
PUBLIC NOTICE FOR DRAFT FIVE YEAR 2026-2031 PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN NOW ONLINE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED PARKS AND RECREATION 2026-2031 YEAR PLAN

The City of Niles Parks and Recreation Board invites residents to comment on the draft five-year (2026-2031) City of Niles Parks and Recreation Plan now available online at http://www.nilesmi.org/departments_and_divisions/parks_and_recreation.php

Once on this page, please click the link titled Draft 2026-2031 City of Niles Parks and Recreation Plan.

Comments can be made on the City's website until March 30, 2026 by entering information in at: http://www.nilesmi.org/citizen_request_center/index.php.

A public hearing will be held on Monday, April 13, 2026 as part of the regular Niles City Council Meeting, to obtain the views of citizens concerning the Proposed 2026-2031 City of Niles Parks and Recreation Plan. Any interested person or group may address the Niles City Council regarding the Proposed 2026-2031 City of Niles Parks and Recreation Plan when recognized by the presiding officer. The comment of any member of the public or any special interest group may be limited in time. Such limitation shall not be less than three minutes unless otherwise explained by the presiding officer, subject to appeal by the City Council.

Alternatively, you can send a letter stating your opinions or position to the City of Niles (Attn. Community Development), 333 N. 2nd Street, Niles, MI 49120, or by email to communitydevelopment@nilesmi.org

The Public Comment Period Begins will extend until April 13, 2026 at 6:00pm EST. The City Council will consider the request for Parks and Recreation 5 Year Plan on Monday, April 13, 2026 during the regular City Council meeting.

The City of Niles will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services to those individuals with disabilities who wish to attend its public meetings upon receiving at least three days' notice. Any such individual requiring such aids or services should contact the City by writing or calling the following: City of Niles ADA Coordinator, 333 N. 2nd Street, Niles, MI, phone (269) 683-4700 or 683-1313 to access the TDD (a non-voice terminal device) for individuals with hearing or speech impairment.

DATED: February 27, 2026

Ann Young, Community Development Director

1000 HOME SERVICE DIRECTORY

Michiana Masonry & Construction
All your Masonry needs!
Chimney Cleaning
Insured & Bonded
Senior Discounts
269-362-1566

QUALITY CLOCK REPAIR
Front Street Framery
801 East Front Street
Buchanan, MI
House calls. Free estimates.
269-409-1031

2000 PROFESSIONAL SERVICE DIRECTORY

BRADY CONCRETE

Specializing in:
** Flat work of all types*
** Seawalls*
** Pole Barn Floors*
** Stamped Concrete*
** Bobcat Services*

Free Estimates, Insured
Fast, Dependable Service

269-445-3349 or
269-591-0100

SLIM'S CONSTRUCTION

WE SPECIALIZE IN POLE BARNS ROOFING & CONCRETE

Licensed & Insured

65280 M-66
Sturgis, MI 49091

SAM SCHWARTZ
269-221-0159

JOIN THE READERSHIP.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

Call 269-429-1396

Bears are trading Moore to Bills, will get 2nd-round pick

Jeff Roberson / AP

Chicago Bears wide receiver DJ Moore runs after making a catch against the Los Angeles Rams during the first half of a playoff game Jan. 18.

By SEAN HAMMOND
Chicago Tribune (TNS)

CHICAGO — The Chicago Bears are trading wide receiver DJ Moore and a 2026 fifth-round draft pick to the Buffalo Bills in exchange for a 2026 second-round pick, NFL Network and ESPN reported Thursday.

In doing so, the Bears are trading a player who not long ago they saw as a big part of their future. However, last season young playmakers Rome Odunze, Luther Burden III and Colston Loveland emerged as top targets in coach Ben Johnson's offense.

Moore, 28, had his moments in 2025 too – none bigger than a walk-off touchdown in overtime against the Green Bay Packers on Dec. 20 at Soldier Field – but he seemed to disappear at times. Moore caught one or zero passes in five games last season.

He totaled 50 catches for 682 yards and six touchdowns in 2025. In three seasons in Chicago, he had 3,012 yards and 20 touchdowns on 244 receptions in 51 regular-season games.

The Bears loved Moore's toughness. He never missed a game after the team traded for him in 2023 and hasn't missed a game since 2020. The decision to move on from him likely had more to do with his contract.

Moore signed a four-year, $110 million extension in summer 2024. At the time, he still had two years remaining on his current deal, so the extension was set to hit the books in 2026. He was due to cost $28.5 million against the salary cap this year.

Trading him won't free up all of that money, but it will save the Bears about $16.5 million against the cap. With cap space tight heading into 2026, that money could be spent elsewhere as the Bears prepare to lean on the young pass-catching talent they've assembled. Teams can begin negotiating with free agents at 11 a.m. Monday.

The second-round pick received from the Bills is No. 60. By swapping the fifth-round pick for the second-rounder, the Bears retain seven total picks: one in the first round (No. 25), two in the second (Nos. 57 and 60), one in the third (No. 89), one in the fourth and two in the seventh. The order of the later-round picks will depend on how the NFL divvies up compensatory picks.

The Bears remain hopeful they could receive comp picks after assistant general manager Ian Cunningham's exit to become the Atlanta Falcons GM, but that's undetermined.

Trading Moore brings an abrupt ending to the relationship that began when the Bears traded the No. 1 draft pick to the Carolina Panthers in March 2023. General manager Ryan Poles prioritized adding a veteran talent in that deal, which also netted the pick that became quarterback Caleb Williams. Moore was that veteran talent.

Moore had a career-best 1,364 receiving yards and eight touchdowns the following season with Justin Fields at quarterback. But after the Bears drafted Williams with the No. 1 pick in 2024, Moore never quite reached that level of output with his new quarterback.

Asked last week at the NFL combine about the possibility of trading Moore, Poles didn't rule it out.

"I have nothing but great things to say about him," Poles said at the time. "But this is the time now where we have to look at all the different scenarios to see what can allow us to put the best team out there.

"And I've talked about this before. There are relationships there. There's a lot there that makes it really, really difficult. He's a guy we want here. But we have to look at all the different scenarios."

Now the Bears are moving on without him – while Moore gets a chance to play for one of the AFC's top teams. The Bills have been searching for a top receiver for quarterback Josh Allen, the 2024 league MVP, since trading Stefon Diggs after the 2023 season.

Moore has experience with new Bills coach Joe Brady, who was the Panthers offensive coordinator in 2020 and '21. Moore topped 1,100 receiving yards in both of those seasons.

Moore is entering his ninth NFL season, having played his first five with the Panthers after they selected him with the 24th pick of the 2018 draft out of Maryland.

Reaction to the death of coach Lou Holtz at 89

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Reaction to the death of College Football Hall of Fame coach Lou Holtz, who led Notre Dame to a national championship in 1988.

"Lou and I shared a very special relationship. He welcomed me to the Notre Dame family immediately, offering me great support throughout our time together. Our relationship meant a lot to me as I admired the values he used to build the foundation of his coaching career: love, trust and commitment. ... Lou's impact at Notre Dame has gone well beyond the football team. He and his wife, Beth, are respected across campus for their generous hearts and commitment to carrying out Notre Dame's mission of being a force for good." – Notre Dame coach Marcus Freeman.

"He was successful. But more important, he was significant." – Skip Holtz, son of Lou Holtz and a fellow football coach.

"Lou Holtz was more than a football figure. He was a true leader. One of one. He consistently encouraged others in life. The message never changed. Trust, Love, Commitment." – Rick Mirer, Notre Dame quarterback from 1989-1992.

"Lou Holtz was a true giant in our game, not just because of the championships he won, but because of the lives he shaped. He stood for discipline, faith, education and doing things the right way. College football is better because of Coach Holtz, and so are generations of young men who were fortunate enough to play for him." – Archie Manning, former college and NFL QB, and chairman of the National Football Foundation.

"Obviously one of the greatest coaches certainly to ever coach this game. I would think a lot of people who played for him and know him would probably say one of the greatest people and one of the greatest influences in a lot of people's lives." – Clemson coach Dabo Swinney.

"I still remember the day he came to my house to recruit me. He didn't just sit down and talk to me about football or what I could do on the field. He talked to me as a young man. And he spoke to my mom the way a man should speak to a mother who was trusting someone with her son. He looked her in the eye and promised that I would be taken care of at Notre Dame. That moment meant everything to us, and it's something I've carried with me my entire life." – Hall of Fame NFL running back Jerome Bettis, who played at Notre Dame from 1990-92.

"Notre Dame mourns the loss of Lou Holtz, a legendary football coach, a beloved member of the Notre Dame family and devoted husband, father and grandfather. Among his many accomplishments, we will remember him above all as a teacher, leader and mentor who brought out the very best in his players, on and off the field, earning their respect and admiration for a lifetime. ... Whenever Notre Dame called to ask for his help, Lou answered with his characteristic generosity, and he will be sorely missed." – The Rev. Robert A. Dowd, University of Notre Dame president.

"Coach Lou Holtz was a legend on and off the field, who cared deeply for the state of Indiana and lived a remarkable life grounded in faith, family, and giving back. He will be greatly missed." – Indiana Gov. Mike Braun.

SEMIS

From page B1

"We didn't come out as strong and I missed some big shots early," Hoyt said. "There's adversity in every game so we continued to push each other and hit big shots at the end. That moment showed me what countless hours in the gym can do."

The Lancers had a chance to tie or retake the lead in the closing seconds but could not convert.

"We wanted to make sure that we were denying and that we were going to play good man-to-man defense," Workman said. "Our guards allowed them to drive at us a lot, so we made sure that we made that adjustment and didn't allow that and it worked out."

Hoyt led all scorers with 29 points Tanaya Brown scored nine points and gathered crucial offensive rebounds down the stretch. Jessie Thornton and Austyn Rohacs scored six and five points respectively. Sarah Callahan and Sydney Thomas scored 21 and 20 to lead Lakeshore, who led 27-24 at halftime and by as many as 10 in the third quarter.

When the Vikings needed to make a play, Hoyt delivered. 19 of her 29 points came in the second half, including 11 in the third quarter to get the Vikings back in the game. Tied 46-46 in the fourth quarter following a Hoyt free throw, Lakeshore responded with a pair of Thomas and Gustafson baskets to take a 50-46 lead. A Brown floater trimmed Niles' deficit to 50-48 and after getting fouled on a shot attempt a few moments later, Brown made one of two free throws to make it a 50-49 game.

With less than a minute remaining, Lakeshore's Callahan was fouled while shooting and made one of two free throws, giving Hoyt and the Vikings a chance at victory.

"I just wanted to win so bad," Hoyt said. "I decided I was gonna do whatever it takes to win and help my team out. It was a team effort in the end and we just put it together."

"She just made a huge play after huge play in the second half," Toothman said.

Workman was impressed with the poise Hoyt displayed throughout the game.

"She carried us through the entire game offensively and defensively," Workman said. "She's the real deal."

While the loss stung, Toothman was proud of the growth he saw from his team during his first year as coach.

"I'm 100 percent proud of them," he said. "From where we began in November to the team we are now, kudos to them and their willingness to learn and to grow and to evolve and they turned themselves into a really good basketball team. I'm super proud."

The Lancers graduate four seniors from the team in Gabby Smit, Avery Vroon, Callahan and Sophia Godush.

Jeff Douglas / For Leader Publications

Niles freshman Elynne Hoyt (13) shoots during Wednesday's D2 district semifinal against Lakeshore.

"They are wonderful human beings," Toothman said. "They showed up every day, they worked hard every day and they got after it every day. If they're not the good teammates they are, we don't finish the year in the great place like we are. I told the seniors that this year could have gone really bad if you don't have good seniors and we had great seniors."

Hoyt has enjoyed her freshman season so far and looks forward to Friday's matchup with the Shamrocks.

"I wanted to have the best season possible," she said. "I put everything on the line for my teammates, and they have done the same for me. I just came into the season wanting to win and now, we're gonna go win a district championship."

The Shamrocks withstood an Edwardsburg comeback to win and avenge a 55-52 setback to the Eddies on Jan. 12.

Zion Ellis led the Shamrocks with 21 points and Kathryn Bergan scored 17 while Adeline Weber added 10.

After scoring a career-best 40 against the Shamrocks in their Jan. 12 matchup, Laubach tallied 23 points, five rebounds and five steals to lead the Eddies Wednesday night. Senior Liyah Worthington had 12 points, nine rebounds and two steals and Kya Shier totaled 10 points, four rebounds, four assists and three steals. Mallory Schrock finished with five points, six rebounds and four steals and Shyann Thomas-Flanery added four points, 12 rebounds and two steals.

"I was super proud of them," said Edwardsburg coach Scott Rosesiler. "We were down 10 at half and we talked about coming out with energy in the second half, putting a little pressure on Berrien Springs and the girls did a nice job of it. We tied the game and gave it a good run. We had chances; if some few free throws fell or a few lay ups would have gone in, who knows what would have happened but I was really proud of the girls. I was really proud of them for their grit, their determination and the way they've battled the whole game."

Edwardsburg led early in the first quarter before Berrien Springs ended the quarter on a 10-0 run to give them a 16-10 lead. The Shamrocks led 33-23 at halftime and by as many as 15 in the second half before the Eddies rallied. A Laubach fast break layup capped a 19-5 run that saw the Eddies tie the game at 48-48. Back-to-back Ellis baskets kickstarted a 9-2 run that gave Berrien Springs a 57-50 lead.

Up 57-55 In the closing seconds, Ellis stepped up to make the game-clinching basket to propel the Shamrocks to the next round.

The Eddies graduate two seniors in Worthington and Mallory Schrock with leading scorers Laubach and Shier returning next year.

"We're a youthful team," Rodesiler said. "We had some inexperience to start the year. When we played at Otsego in the second game of the year, we got beat by 30 and then we played Otsego later in the season, we were down three going into the fourth quarter. We battled some of the top teams in the league and lost by two in the district semifinals. We're right there."

NILES 52 LAKESHORE 51

At Niles
LAKESHORE (51)
Sam Little 2, Sydney Thomas 20, Salena Gustafson 4, Avery Vroon 4, Sara Callahan 21. Totals 22 4-10 51.
NILES (52)
Jessie Thornton 6, Tanaya Brown 9, Gianna Ball 3, Maddie Zache 0, Elynne Hoyt 29, Ali Gerrits 0, Austyn Rohacs 5. Totals 19 10-19 52.

Lakeshore	**12**	**27**	**44**	**51**
Niles	**16**	**24**	**39**	**52**

3-point baskets – Lakeshore 3 (Thomas 3), Niles 4 (Hoyt 3, Ball 1). Total fouls – Lakeshore 14, Niles 8. Records – Lakeshore 3-19, Niles 12-11

BERRIEN SPRINGS 59, EDWARDSBURG 57

At Niles
EDWARDSBURG (57)
Shelby Laubach 23, Harlow Gropp 1, Shyann Thomas-Flanery 4, Liyah Worthington 12, Kya Shier 10, Mallory Schrock 5, Samantha O'Brien 2. Totals 21 14-23 57.
BERRIEN SRPINGS (59)
Adeline Weber 10, Zion Ellis 21, Kathryn Bergan 17, Briann Wolff 5, Uriah Andriantson 3, Dylan Rospierski 1, Addison Wattles 2. Totals 23 8-19 59.

Edwardsburg	**10**	**23**	**41**	**57**
Berrien Springs	**16**	**33**	**48**	**59**

3-point baskets – Edwardsburg 1 (Laubach 1), Berrien Springs 5 (Weber 2, Ellis 1, Wolff 1, Andriantson 1). Total fouls (fouled out) – Edwardsburg 18 (Worthington), Berrien Springs 21 (Weber, Bergan). Records – Edwardsburg 6-16, Berrien Springs 11-8

DEALS ON WHEELS

$0 DOWN

SPRING INTO $AVINGS!

2014 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY

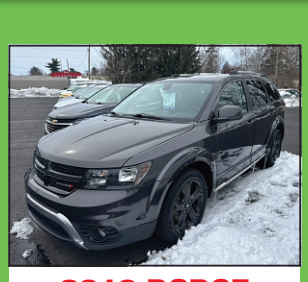
Just in!! Fully service and ready to go

Only $6,900

2004 FREIGHTLINER THOMAS

Ready to work on a budget.

Only $10,000



2018 DODGE JOURNEY CROSSROAD

Just in!! Clean with only 97k miles

Only $12,900

2017 CHEVY EXPRESS 2500

Cargo rack, full power options

Only $13,700

2020 CHEVY MALIBU LT

Just in!! Loaded with moonroof!

Only $13,700

2013 HYUNDAI GENESIS COUPE

Very rare, R-track pack

Only $13,900

PONTIAC SOLSTICE

Low miles, great shape... Nice car to drive to car shows.

Only $13,900

2020 CHEVY MALIBU

Just in!! Only 112k miles & great on gas!

Only $13,900

2018 FORD EXPLORER

Save thousands!

Only $14,620

2003 FORD THUNDERBIRD

Just in!! Showroom new

Only $14,900

2020 CHEVY EQUINOX

Just in!! Only 70k miles, AWD, heated seats & steering wheel!

Only $16,900

2019 KIA STINGER GT

It goes like a bat out of Haiti

Only $18,700

2019 HONDA HRV AWD

Wholesale priced

Only $19,125

2024 NISSAN SENTRA

Just in!! Like new for less!

Only $19,775

2022 KEYSTONE CT3400

Like new but half the price

Only $22,200

2021 CHRYSLER PACIFICA

Just in!! Low miles.

Only $23,700

2023 NISSAN ALTIMA SR

1 owner, just in! Like new with a discounted price

$23,900

2025 CHEVY TRAX ACTIV

1 Owner, Only 13k miles, like new!

Only $24,800

2025 MAZDA 3

Like new, one owner, only 17k miles!

Only $25,500

2018 FORD F-150 XLT SUPERCAB

Just in!! Ecoboost with only 90k miles

Only $27,900

2023 CHRYSLER 300

Just in, off lease. 12,000 miles with every option

Only $29,800

2022 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500 LT

1 owner, like new and 20" wheels!

$33,650

2020 CADILLAC ESCALADE

Luxury Edition w/all the Bells & Whistles!

Only $34,975

2024 FORD E-350 CARGO

16ft box trucks with miles in the 40's. Like new for half the price. 2 left!

Only $37,900

2020 RAM 3500 TRADESMAN

Rust free, Cummins diesel, flat bed ready to work!

Only $39,500

2022 CHEVY SILVERADO LT 1500

4 x 4, Only 26k miles, Like new!! One owner.

Only $39,900

2024 FORD EXPLORER LIMITED

One owner! Like new with all the options and only 29k miles!

Only $39,800

2023 GMC CANYON AT4

Just In!! Only 22k miles, like new & loaded!!

Only $41,975

2023 CHEVY SILVERADO 2500HD LT

1 Owner, Duramax Diesel, 4x4, Z71, Ready to Work!!!

Only $49,900

2024 GENESIS GV80

Only 57k miles! Roll down the road in style!

CALL US!

SEE A STAR IT'S A 1 OWNER CAR

269-783-3325 • M-51 DOWAGIAC